

Socialist Rights Defence Committee (SRDF) – Dowson vs. The RCMP 1977-

1985

1977

- 1977-11Nov21 Resolution 'drawn up for Fred C.' (RD handwriting) re RCMP
- 1977-12Dec9-a Statement by Hon. R. Roy McMurtry before MacDonald Commission
- 1977-12Dec13 *GM* clip: "RCMP sued over report on socialists"
- 1977-12Dec19 *GM* clip: "Over 60 groups Communist-controlled in 70s"
- 1977-98a (undated, found 1977) 'draft 2nd appeal' – 'Is the RCMP trying to outlaw'
- 1977-99a Undated, found 1977) RD hand notes – Cologne Trial of Marx 1851

1978

- 1978-01Jan-1a Open Letter to Gov't & Parliament of Canada from James Endicott
- 1978-01Jan-1b 'Louis Riel's Battle is Not Yet Won' (Endicott Newsletter)
- 1978-02Feb17a CCLA circular letter re criminal breaches of the law by the RCMP
- 1978-02Feb19 SRDF Press Release: appeal to RCMP Krever Commission
- 1978-02Feb25a Form letter H. Kopyto seeking support for RCMP case
- 1978-02Feb25c Attached example statement of support
- 1978-03Mar16a Report on RCMP suit (organizing a defence campaign)
- 1978-03Mar28 H. Kopyto letter to P. Copeland re: Dowson v. H.M. The Queen
- 1978-03Mar30a Letter H.Kopyto to Ross Dowson re: Dowson v. TheQueen
- 1978-04Apr18a SRDF circular letter to U.S. supporters re RCMP threats
- 1978-04Apr19 Clip from NDP *Commonwealth*: "Slander action launched"
- 1978-04Apr99a (NDP?) resolution for investigation of RCMP's activities

- 1978-04avr99b (*français*) “l'NPD exige une investigation de toute activité...”
- 1978-05May1a SRDF circular re RCMP investigations of NDP and Waffle
- 1978-05May1c Attached: “Support this cry for justice!”
- 1978-05May25 Handwritten notes by R.D.-- phone call to Ligue des droits de l'homme
- 1978-06June00a Clip: “New Democrat sues gov't over RCMP crimes”
- 1978-06June00b (top) Petition on RCMP wrongdoing
- 1978-06June00c (bottom) (TC) Douglas, Lewis back petition; ask support
- 1978-06jun5a SRDF –“Peut-on tolérer que des compatriotes soient jugés 'subversifs'”
- 1978-06jun5d Socialist Rights Defence Fund Statement of Purpose
- 1978-06Jun99 NDP St.George Newsletter – 'Are Trotskyists subversive?'
- 1978-08Aug1 Letter H. Kopyto to Defendant lawyers for Particulars
- 1978-08Aug99 *Alberta Democrat*: “New Democrat sues gov't over RCMP”
- 1978-09Sept1 Letter to Montreal prof re campus circulation of publicity
- 1978-09Sept7 Letter from Concordia U.(*ex-SGWU*) accepting letters for faculty distribution
- 1978-09Sept15a SRDF circular to supporters:RCMP chase of “subversives”
- 1978-09Sept15c Attached: SRDF Fund Statement of Purpose
- 1978-10Oct98 Petition on RCMP wrongdoing; NDP leaders back petition
- 1978-10Oct99 Toronto *Clarion*: “Mountie charges demanded”
- 1978-11Nov10a Harry K's & Ross D's appraisals of Globe & Mail report (handwritten)
- 1978-12Dec13 H. Kopyto accounts with Ross Dowson re RCMP suit
- 1978-12Dec21a H. Kopyto: Progress report; Queen seeks to dismiss suit
- 1978-12Dec23 SRDF letter to RWP acknowledging offer of support

1979

- 1979-01Jan13 SRDF item given to Rosedale NDP bulletin
- 1979-02Feb1 H. Kopyto letter to Health Records Inquiry with slanders
- 1979-02Feb19 Press Release re the Krever Commission (ignored by mass media)
- 1979-02Feb20 R.D. Letter to Access CBC requesting an interview for RCMP case
- 1979-03Mar00 For Immediate Release 'Sent to supporters & SRDR general list....'
- 1979-03Mar8a *GM Clip:* "Probe RCMP used health records..."
- 1979-03Mar8b *Star clip:* «RCMP distributed private OHIP data to...»
- 1979-03Mar27a Star clip: « RCMP sent 'Dear Comrade' letter to ... wife.«
- 1979-03Mar27b Attach: Forged letter #1 of Dec/72 placed by RCMP
- 1979-04Apr4a H.Kopyto letter to Health Records Inquiry re RCMP's guilt
- 1979-04Apr6 Letter from Krever Comm. Re inviting oral submissions
- 1979-04Apr12a H. Kopyto letter re RCMP Inquiry re Montreal forgeries
- 1979-04Apr19-1 Kopyto letter to Att-Gen. Seeking prosecution of RCMP
- 1979-04Apr19-2 Kopyto letter to Keable Comm. Re RCMP guilt admissions
- 1979-04Apr24 RD notes of talk with comrade approached by RCMP agent
- 1979-05May18 H.Kopyto letter to H. Strosberg, Counsel to Health Records confidentiality
- 1979-05May23 Letter from Royal Comm. Re method of RCMP school entry
- 1979-05May25 Letter from H. Kopyto to TBE re names of janitors
- 1979-06June15 SRDF Press Release: Dowson urges Krever to lay charges
- 1979-06June18-1 Letter H. Kopyto to law firm enclosing RCMP forgeries
- 1979-06June18-2 Letter Kopyto to M. Cassidy, NDP leader: correspondence
- 1979-06June26a RD notes re Board of Education interview for support

- 1979-06June27 Letter H. Kopyto to Cdn. Civil Liberties Assn. Re RCMP
- 1979-08Aug9a M. Mandel letter (York U.) to A-G Roy McMurtry intro to Greenspan note
- 1979-10Oct4 Dowson calls on McDonald enquiry re 'Operation Checkmate"
- 1979-10Oct24 H. Kopyto letter to Solicitor-General re delays unfair to client and public
- 1979-11Nov8 H. Kopyto to Solicitor-General seeking RCMP criminal acts info from Ontario
- 1979-11Nov15 H. Kopyto to Svend Robinson MP re RCMP questions to Solicitor-General
- 1979-11Nov22a Flyer: Resolution on Justice adopted at NDP convention
- 1979-11Nov22b *Star* clip: "Mountie secrets given to Crown privileged"
- 1979-11Nov30 (McDonald) Commission invitation to R.D. To submit evidence on RCMP
- 1979-12Dec4 H. Kopto letter to Enquiry Secretary naming unionist involved in case
- 1979-12Dec14 Solicitor-Gen Letter to H. Kopyto denying lack of cooperation with OPP
- 1979-12Dec20 H. Kopyto letter to A-G Ontario McMurtry asking for information on case
- 1979-12Dec99 Svend Robinson H of C letter to New Democrats on Dowson RCMP case

1980

- 1980-03Mar31 H. Kopyto to A-G Ontario seeking info on laying charges against police
- 1980-04Apr9a Letter McDonald Comm. To H. Kopyto re permission to question F. Fox
- 1980-05May11 SRDF letter to Ont. NDP seeking list of riding contacts
- 1980-07Jul23 R.D. Hand note re call to McDonald Comm re written and oral submissions
- 1980-08Aug1 SRDF circular letter announcing federal appeal Sept. 23, funds for advert.
- 1980-08Aug6 Revised Aug. 1 letter – call for financial support, enclosing latest facts
- 1980-08aout28 L.O. Advert. 'La poursuite de Dowson contre la GRC gagne un soutien--'

- 1980-09Sept3 R.D. Handwritten note to Harry K.
- 1980-09Sept4 SRDF letter to J-C Parrot, Postal Workers sending info on RCMP suit
- 1980-10Oct4-1 SRDF letter to ONDP enquiring of SRDF material sent out
- 1980-10Oct4-2 SRDF letter to CCU re publicity and sponsorship
- 1980-12Dec11 Letter from B. Kaplan MP to H. Kopyto refusing request to comment
- 1980-12Dec19 Forward letter from RD re bulk order of RCMP booklets

1981

- 1981-01Jan2 SRDF letter to Editors *This Magazine* asking for booklet review
- 1981-01Jan6 Letter H. Paine to Vancouver Labor Council seeking mailing list for booklet
- 1981-01Jan7 Letter from D. M., Halifax congratulating SRDF
- 1981-01Jan24a Letter to R.D. from John Sawatsky – his views on “Dowson v RCMP”
- 1981-01Jan24b 'first press comments on Dowson v RCMP'
- 1981-02Feb2 Letter R.D. To D.M. Halifax sending info and report on progress of case
- 1981-02Feb4a *The Peak* (SFU-BC) 'Punish the police criminals and their bosses!' (review)
- 1981-03Mar26 From Excalibur (York U.?) 'One man's quiet fight for justice' (book review)
- 1981-03Mar99a FUSE March/April- Dowson vs RCMP- 'They've admitted forgeries. but....'

1982

- 1982-01Jan1 “They ride horses, don't they?” by Bryan Palmer (RCMP)
- 1982-06June18 Briarpatch: Supreme Court blocks attempt to sue RCMP

1983

1983-10Oct14 SRDF: brief outline of Dowson's 6-year struggle since 1977

1985

1985-03Mar14 SRDF letter to Hamilton Labour Council re pamphlet order

1985-10Oct9 Globe clip- 'Trotskyite finally gets day in (Supreme) court'

1985-10Oct10 Globe clip- 'Mounties dirty tricks destroyed organization, damages sought'

Drawn up for Fred C Nov 21/77

The revelations of the RCMP violations of the law and its "dirty tricks" have not only exposed the Trudeau government as ~~knowing~~ cover-up artists ~~knowing~~ of these violations of basic civil rights but they have revealed the RCMP, as Stephen Lewis has noted, to be "much more dangerous than the organizations they investigate" causing him to characterize them as the "CIA of Canada".

Not only does the RCMP function as the federal police but it also serves as the provincial police and municipal police in many provinces and municipalities.

We should wherever this is the case oppose the RCMP as serving in this capacity and press for police forces to be under citizens control.

- ① what is Sanders fine
② amount

Copied before Mac Donald Commission

STATEMENT

BY

THE HONOURABLE R. ROY McMURTRY

Suit for Sander
character defamed
federal court

ATTORNEY GENERAL FOR ONTARIO

punitive + exemplary
damages deter
up to 500,000.

DECEMBER 9, 1977



MR. SPEAKER, I HAVE SOME INFORMATION IN RESPONSE
(TO QUESTIONS RAISED BY THE LEADER OF THE NEW DEMOCRATIC
PARTY ON NOVEMBER 1ST.

THE QUESTIONS WERE IN RELATION TO HIS PARTY AND ANY
INVESTIGATION OF IT BY THE ROYAL CANADIAN MOUNTED POLICE
DURING THE YEAR 1971 TO 1973, INCLUSIVE.

MR. SPEAKER, IN RESPONSE TO THOSE QUESTIONS I WROTE TO
THE HONOURABLE FRANCIS FOX AND THE HONOURABLE RON
BASFORD ON NOVEMBER 2ND ASKING THEM FOR INFORMATION
IN THIS REGARD. I PROVIDED THE LEADER OF THE NEW
DEMOCRATIC PARTY WITH COPIES OF MY LETTERS.

LATE ON DECEMBER 6, I RECEIVED A SHORT REPLY FROM
MR. FOX WHICH SAID, IN PART, AND I QUOTE:

"I HAVE BEEN ASSURED BY THE ROYAL CANADIAN MOUNTED
POLICE THAT THEY HAVE NOT CONDUCTED AN INVESTIGATION
(INTO THE ACTIVITIES OF THE NEW DEMOCRATIC PARTY AS SUCH.
As I HAVE STATED IN THE HOUSE OF COMMONS, HOWEVER, MEMBERSHIP
IN A POLITICAL PARTY DOES NOT GIVE IMMUNITY TO ANYONE
WHO WOULD TEND TO PROMOTE CHANGES BROUGHT ON BY VIOLENT
AND UNDEMOCRATIC MEANS."

Enclosed

MR. SPEAKER, MR. FOX WENT ON TO SAY IN HIS LETTER THAT M. S. SEXSMITH, DEPUTY DIRECTOR GENERAL, OPERATIONS, FOR THE RCMP SECURITY SERVICE, WOULD PROVIDE ANY FURTHER INFORMATION IN THIS REGARD.

THE FOLLOWING DAY, R. M. MCLEOD, ACTING ASSISTANT DEPUTY ATTORNEY GENERAL, MET WITH RCMP OFFICIALS IN OTTAWA.

AS A RESULT OF THAT MEETING, A SUMMARY OF RCMP ACTIVITY IN THIS REGARD WAS PREPARED.

THAT SUMMARY IS AS FOLLOWS, AND I QUOTE:

- "1. THE RCMP HAVE NOT CONDUCTED AN INVESTIGATION INTO THE ACTIVITIES OF THE NEW DEMOCRATIC PARTY.
- "2. AFTER A COMPLETE REVIEW OF THEIR FILES AND TO THE BEST OF THEIR KNOWLEDGE, ASSISTANT COMMISSIONER SEXSMITH AND HIS STAFF ADVISE THAT NO MEMBER OR [AGENT OF THE RCMP HAS EVER COMMITTED ANY ILLEGAL ENTRY OF ANY NDP OFFICE OR OTHER PREMISES ANYWHERE.]
- "3. THE RCMP HAVE ALWAYS ACTED IN THE BELIEF THAT MEMBERSHIP IN A POLITICAL PARTY DOES NOT GIVE IMMUNITY TO ANYONE WHO [WOULD TEND TO PROMOTE CHANGES BROUGHT ON BY VIOLENT AND UNDEMOCRATIC MEANS AND THEREBY attract the attention of the RCMP on the interest of national security] ATTRACT THE ATTENTION OF THE NATIONAL SECURITY

"4. BETWEEN 1970 AND 1973 THE RCMP DID CONDUCT INVESTIGATIONS INTO THE ACTIVITIES OF CERTAIN MEMBERS OF THE WAFFLE GROUP WHILE IT WAS STILL A PART OF THE NDP. THIS WAS EXPLAINED AS FOLLOWS:

(A) WHEN THE WAFFLE GROUP CAME INTO BEING, IT INVITED PERSONS OUTSIDE THE NDP TO JOIN ITS RANKS. THESE PERSONS INCLUDED EX-MEMBERS OF THE COMMUNIST PARTY OF CANADA AND MEMBERS OF THE CANADIAN TROTSKYISTS MOVEMENTS. THE LEADERS OF THE LEAGUE FOR SOCIALIST ACTION (TROTSKYISTS), IN FACT DIRECTED THEIR MEMBERS TO JOIN THE WAFFLE GROUP.

*Are CP + USA illegal groups
subversive penitentiary
Security*

(B) THE RCMP INVESTIGATION OF CERTAIN MEMBERS OF THE WAFFLE GROUP ESTABLISHED THAT SUBVERSIVE ELEMENTS PENETRATED THE NDP THROUGH THE WAFFLE IN ORDER TO GAIN MORE RESPECTABILITY, CREDIBILITY AND INFLUENCE. ALTHOUGH THE RCMP INVESTIGATION CONCENTRATED ON INDIVIDUALS OF SECURITY INTEREST, INQUIRIES WERE BROADENED SUFFICIENTLY TO PUT THE ACTIVITIES OF THESE INDIVIDUALS IN PROPER PERSPECTIVE. THE INVESTIGATION WAS DE-EMPHASIZED AFTER THE NDP DECIDED TO RID ITSELF OF THE WAFFLE. THE

*Political not subversive
Lobby to recruit people*

*W.L.B.
yes*

*Part 3
Letter*

INDIVIDUALS OF CONCERN TO THE RCMP, HAVING LOST THE LEGITIMACY OF MEMBERSHIP IN THE NDP, ALSO LOST INTEREST IN THE WAFFLE. THE RCMP CONCERN WITH THESE INDIVIDUALS WAS NOT REDUCED BUT ANY CONCERNS THAT THE RCMP HAD THAT THESE SUBVERSIVE ELEMENTS WERE USING THE WAFFLE AS A MEANS OF PENETRATING THE NDP AND THEREFORE AS A MEANS OF ACQUIRING CREDIBILITY AND INFLUENCE WAS ACCORDINGLY ELIMINATED.

- (c) DURING THE PERIOD REFERRED TO IN PARAGRAPH (B) ABOVE, THE RCMP CONCERN WITH INDIVIDUALS IN THE WAFFLE WAS INCREASED WHEN IT WAS FOUND THAT A CANADIAN NEWS MEDIA PERSON, CLOSELY ASSOCIATED WITH LEADING PEOPLE IN THE WAFFLE, WAS MEETING CLANDESTINELY WITH KONSTANTIN GEYVANDOV, A RUSSIAN KGB INTELLIGENCE OFFICER, WHO BETWEEN AUGUST 1968 AND SEPTEMBER 1973, OPERATED IN CANADA AS A PRAVDA CORRESPONDENT. THE RCMP INVESTIGATION CONFIRMED THAT THIS CANADIAN PROVIDED REPORTS TO GEYVANDOV DURING THESE CLANDESTINE MEETINGS AND ON AT LEAST SIX OCCASIONS WAS PAID MONEY BY GEYVANDOV. AMONGST OTHER THINGS, THE CANADIAN WAS SPECIFICALLY ASKED BY GEYVANDOV TO PROVIDE REPORTS TO HIM ON THE NDP AND THE WAFFLE.

- (D) THE RCMP BELIEVED THAT GEYANDOV'S PURPOSE IN SEEKING SUCH REPORTS WAS TO ASSIST THE RUSSIAN KGB INTELLIGENCE SERVICE IN DECIDING WHETHER THE WAFFLE GROUP OR ANY OF ITS MEMBERS WERE WORTHY OF FURTHER ATTENTION BY THE KGB.
- (E) GEYVANDOV RETURNED TO THE SOVIET UNION IN SEPTEMBER OF 1973. ON JANUARY 8, 1974 THE USSR EMBASSY IN OTTAWA WAS ADVISED BY THE DEPARTMENT OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS THAT BECAUSE OF ACTIVITIES UNRELATED TO HIS WORK AS A JOURNALIST, GEYVANDOV WOULD NOT BE PERMITTED TO RETURN TO CANADA.
- (F) CONSIDERATION WAS GIVEN BY THE RCMP TO THE POSSIBILITY OF LAYING A CHARGE AGAINST THIS CANADIAN NEWS MEDIA PERSON BUT THE CONCLUSION REACHED WAS THAT NO CHARGE COULD BE LAID."

MR. SPEAKER, THAT IS THE CONCLUSION OF THE SUMMARY.

Baldwin *RCMP* *Wa*
Indicates *Security* *Report* *Waffle*
Belarus *Op* *Sc* *Waffel*
Indicates *Security* *Report* *Waffle*
Belarus *Op* *Sc* *Waffel*

CM Dec 13/77

RCMP sued over report on socialists

By LAWRENCE MARTIN

Ross Dowson, the former executive secretary of the League for Socialist Action, has launched a suit against the RCMP alleging the Mounties slandered him and co-thinkers by implying they were subversives in a report tabled in the Ontario Legislature last Friday.

Harry Kopyto, counsel for Mr. Dowson, said his client specifically objects to the idea that the LSA ever promoted change brought on by violence or undemocratic means. He said yesterday he is serving notice of the suit this morning and that it will be fought in the Federal Court of Canada.

Friday's report was tabled by Attorney-General Roy McMurtry in answer to allegations that certain radical members of the Ontario New Democratic Party were investigated by the RCMP in the early 1970s.

The report acknowledged the allegations and said the "subversive elements penetrated the NDP through the Waffle in order to gain more respectability, credibility and influence."

The report said that when the Waffle came into being it invited persons outside the NDP to join its ranks. "These persons included ex-members of the Communist Party of Canada and members of Canadian Trotskyists movements. The leaders for the League for Socialist Action (Trotskyists), in fact directed their members to join the Waffle group."

Mr. Dowson, 60, a Toronto mayoralty candidate several times, was a leading member of the LSA from its inception in 1962 to its dissolution in 1974. The group was an amalgamation of various Trotskyist elements in Canada. Mr. Dowson defined Trotskyists in the Canadian context as "consistent, convinced socialists" who had "nothing to do with subversion."

Mr. Dowson said the LSA had a Canada-wide membership of 200 to 300. Its members were NDPers from the start and did not make entry to the party through the Waffle as the report suggests, he said.

Mr. Kopyto said that Mr. Dowson wants to try to clear his own name and by doing so "this will have the effect of clearing his co-thinkers."

Mr. Dowson said he also will pursue the matter through the McDonald Commission, the federal inquiry into alleged wrongdoing by the RCMP.

NDP Leader Stephen Lewis said yesterday he will leave further pursuit of the issue of the Waffle investigation to federal party leader Edward Broadbent.

The report on Friday left many unanswered questions, such as, did the investigation extend beyond just Waffle members in the party; was information on frictions within the party collected during the investigation passed on to the federal Government; was the federal Government or the Ontario Government made aware of the investigation prior to it; and what investigative methods were employed?

A spokesman for Mr. McMurtry said yesterday the Attorney-General would pursue unanswered questions, but only at the request of the provincial party. He said Mr. McMurtry's primary concern would be whether laws were broken during the investigation. The report indicated they were not, he said.

(Annotations by R. Powson)

MR

USA

Over 60 groups Communist-

By LAWRENCE MARTIN

More than 60 "Communist-controlled organizations" were operating in Canada in the early 1970s, including one at Ottawa high schools and and 10 at Canadian universities, secret Employment and Immigration Department policy documents say.

The documents, drawn up with the advice of the RCMP, issue special instructions to immigration officials about dealing with people having any connection with them.

The list includes such groups as the Finnish Organization of Canada, the Canadian Peace Congress, the Congress of Canadian Women, the Canada-Latin America Committee, the United Fishermen and Allied Workers Union and the Ottawa High School Student Move-

ment.

The Communist-controlled university groups listed in the documents are the Dalhousie Student Movement, Guelph Student Movement, McGill Student Movement, McMaster Student Movement, Sherbrooke Student Movement, Sir George Student Movement, Toronto Student Movement, University of Montreal Student Movement, Vancouver Student Movement and Waterloo Student Movement. Also listed are the Quebec Student Movement and the Canadian Student Movement.

The documents are part of the immigration manual and a special section deals with applicants for non-immigrant visas or sponsors of applicants who may have associations with the movements or organizations.

The manual says that if any

of the Communist-controlled groups are interested in the applicant's visit a special report must be drawn up.

Toronto civil rights lawyer Clayton Ruby, who received the documents anonymously last week, said yesterday the labelling of such groups as Communist-controlled contravenes Canadian law.

"The law of Canada does not permit or authorize government bureaucrats to create second-class immigration status based on somebody's ill-informed anonymous opinion of what is a Communist-dominated group or organization.

"Therefore, anybody visiting or associating with any of these groups is cheated out of a fair hearing as guaranteed by law because the instructions are to never tell anyone the real reason for refusal of

admittance. The groups never get a chance to complain because it is all secret."

Rene Pappone, an Immigration Department spokesman, would not divulge the criteria for labelling the groups Communist-controlled or any other details about the matter.

"I can only say that Immigration cannot comment on questions related to security. I've checked at the highest level and received legal advice, as I am sure you will."

The sections of the manual cover from 1970 to late 1976. The parts dealing with the Communist-controlled organizations appear to refer to 1972. Some of the organizations listed are defunct or no longer active.

The manual refers repeatedly to RCMP members who act as visa control officers

THE GLOBE AND MAIL, MONDAY, DECEMBER 19, 1977

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controlled in '70s, secret files say

and file reports to immigration officials on security matters. The manual also lists the groups' publications.

A central question in the controversy over illegal activities and alleged illegal activities committed by the RCMP in the same period involves the ability of the force to distinguish between subversive activity and legitimate political dissent.

Some opposition members of Parliament and media critics have argued that there was a gross overreaction to the 1970 October Crisis in which a British diplomat and a Quebec Cabinet minister were kidnapped by the Front de Liberation du Quebec, a terrorist group.

They argue that following the crisis a clampdown occurred in which innocent par-

ties were being labelled Communist or subversive and left to suffer the consequences.

The RCMP recently confirmed that it investigated members of the Waffle faction of the New Democratic Party in the early 1970s because it had been penetrated by subversives. Two of the groups named as having infiltrated the Waffle are listed in the immigration manual as Communist-controlled organizations.

One is for the League for Socialist Action whose former director is suing the RCMP as a result. The suit claims that the Mounties have slandered the director and other members of the league by the label subversive. The other group listed in the manual is the Communist Party of Canada.

A different segment of the immigration manual was the subject of a report last week. The section detailed an East Indian Control Program that was part of Canada's immigration policy designed to stop a widespread racket whereby charter plane loads of East Indians were coming to Canada, supposedly as visitors on tours organized by unscrupulous operators. An immigration spokesman said the policy wasn't racist in the least and has since been scrapped.

Other organizations labelled Communist-controlled in the manual are:

Association of United Ukrainian Canadians, Black Revolutionary Party, Canada-China Friendship Association, Canada-German Democratic Republic Society,

Canada-USSR Association, Canadian Council of National Groups, Canadian Party of Labor, Canadian-Polish Friendship Society.

Canadian Yugoslav Cultural-Educational Association, Chinese Canadian Welfare Association, Chinese Youth Association, Communist Party of Quebec, Dart Coon Club, East Wind Association, Fair Play for Cuba Committee, Federation of Russian-Canadians, Federation of Yugoslav Canadians, Friends of Latin-American People;

Friends of Vochenblatt Association, Hai Fung Association, Independent Mutual Benefit Federation, Kossuth Sick Benefit Society, Slovak Benefit Society, Maple Leaf Mutual, La Ligue des Femmes du Quebec, Ligue des Jeunes Socialistes, Ligue

des Jeunesse Communistes du Quebec, Ligue Socialiste Ouvrière, Lithuanian Literary Society;

Macedonian Canadian Peoples League, Bulgarian Canadian Peoples League, People's Democratic Rights Committee, Polish Democratic Association, Progressive Workers Movement, Quebec Revolutionary Youth, Quebec-USSR Association, Socialist Labor League, Society of Carpatho-Russian Canadians, Sons and Daughters of Canadian Lithuanian Mutual Benefit Society;

United Jewish Peoples Order Mutual Benefit Society, United Macedonian Canadian Committee, Workers Benevolent Association, Yiddish Cultural United Federation and Young Communist League of Canada.

~~not~~

Draft 2nd appeal

*Undated
Found in 1977*

"Draft 2nd appeal"

Is the RCMP trying to outlaw socialism in Canada?

The supporters of the Socialist Rights Defence Fund

believe that this will be the key issue in the case of Dowson

v. Her Majesty the Queen, a slander action against the RCMP

commenced in December in the Federal Court of Canada.

The RCMP, in a statement made public on December 9, accused the League for Socialist Action (LSA) which no longer exists, and other "Trotskyists" and "ex-communists" of "penetrating the NDP through the Waffle in order to gain more respectability, credibility and influence." The statement accuses the Waffle group of inviting these persons to join its ranks.

The statement said that the NDP was no refuge for "subversives" who "tend to promote changes brought on by violent and undemocratic means and thereby attract the attention of the RCMP in the interest of national security."

Ross Dowson, the plaintiff in the suit, was chairman and executive secretary of the League for Socialist Action during the Waffle period. He is claiming that the RCMP statement, which was even described by Ontario's Attorney-General as "vague and ambiguous", slanders his political integrity and leaves him open

to prosecution under at least two sections of the Criminal Code.

The supporters of the Socialist Rights Defence Fund believe that the charge of subversion is being used to justify RCMP intervention in trade unions and the NDP. As Lawrence Martin wrote in the Globe and Mail on September 10, 1977:

"RCMP sources have said that what began as just an investigation of the Waffle mushroomed to cover almost all the principal figures in the party. They said information on finances, friction and party strategy was sent into RCMP Ottawa headquarters and from there, they presume, it went to the Solicitor-General's Department."

The suit is moving rapidly to its second stage, the examinations for discovery. Harry Kopyto, Mr. Dowson's counsel and a civil rights lawyer, said that this stage of the suit will give Mr. Dowson an opportunity to obtain evidence relevant to RCMP "malice" against him and the others maligned. Such evidence could unmask the whole story of RCMP spying on the NDP and trade unions.

We are asking you to respond to this appeal in two ways. First, lend us your name as a supporter by signing the statement attached. Secondly, it costs a lot of money to fight the RCMP in the courts. Transcripts from the examination for

discovery are estimated to cost \$2,500.00 alone. A contribution
would be appreciated.

Yours truly,

Chris Judge
Chris Judge
Administrative Secretary

① Marx

(Fond in 1972)

Sabotage = under Criminal Code - treason

Cologne Trial of Marx

Conspiracy

German govt had suppressed the communist movement, particularly among the Germans in exile - in London

1851 raid in Leipzig - one of Notzgung seized a copy of the Communist Manifesto

¶ 182 quotes Marx - to effect that the secret societies "did directly aim at overthrowing the extant state power. This was justified in France where the proletariat had been conquered by the bourgeoisie, ... Another section of the secret societies aimed at forming the proletariat into a party, without concerning themselves about the extant govt. This was necessary in such countries as Germany where the bourgeoisie and the proletariat were jointly subordinate to their semi-feudal govt so that a victorious onslaught upon the existing govt would not break the power of the bourgeoisie or of the so-called middle classes, but would necessarily help these to power. No doubt here, likewise, the members of the proletarian party would participate anew in a revolution against the states quo, but it was not their business to prepare the way for this revolution".

¶ 184 "In the end, the guilt of the accused was considered to be proved because they had secretly diffused the principles of the Communist Manifesto, principles that endangered the state".

1842 The Rheinische Zeitung - Cologne

1848 The New ~~newspaper~~ — he considered this paper until (1914)
"this very day it remains the best & unsurpassed organ of the revolutionary proletariat"

Nov/48 Marx put under 3 indictments - including "incitement to rebellion"
Marx in court - jury trial court of Assizes -
on his concluding speech Marx:

I regard it as a real sacrifice when we decide to break a lance with these opponents (prosecutors + gendarmes). But once + for all it is the duty of the press to speak up for the oppressed in its immediate vicinity... It does not suffice to fight general conditions + the higher authorities! The press must decide to enter the lists against this particular gendarme, this prosecutor, this district administrator... The first duty of the press therefore is to undermine all the foundations of the existing political system"

2 Mar'y

Cologne trial of Marx

on Feb 8 case of incitement to rebellion taken up under Code Penal
jury declared not guilty

Marx continued - article against Hohenzollern's used as excuse to
expel him - Marx & Engels travelled thro SW Germany searching for
the revolt - didn't find it - Marx went to Paris - Engels went to
Kaiserslautern participated in some skirmishes

Note in Rengius' edition

Marx - Schappert & Schneider were accused in connection
with the Proclamation of 18 Nov 48 signed by all 3 calling on citizens
to forcibly resist attempts to collect taxes.

See p 245 Rentsch of 1848

(3) Marx

From Article May 19/49
(1849)

- ¶ 153 " Did we not state before the jury that
the first duty of the press is therefore to undermine all the
foundations of the existing political system?"
" the Gamblerism of the counterrevolution itself
will convince the nations that there is only one way to shorten,
to simplify, to concentrate, the murderous death pangs of the
old society and the bloody birth pangs of the new society:
only one way — revolutionary terrorism
... " The real opposition to the Neue Rheinische Zeitung begins
only with the Tricolor Republic" (4).

" We are rulers, we demand no consideration from you.
When our turn comes we will not gloss over our terrorism. But the
royalist terrorists, the terrorists by the Grace of God and the
Right, are brutal, contemptible, and vulgar in practice, cowardly,
covert and deceitful in theory, and dishonorable in birth.

We recall our article of Jan 1

Revolutionary uprising of the Fr working class, and world war
— There are the autumns of '48. And already a mixed
revolutionary army, made up of fighters from all nations, confronts
the coalition troops of old Europe in the Russian army in the East,
already the 'red Republic' threatens from Paris!

¶ 172 — Letter — Neue Rheinische Zeitung not suppressed — prohibited for 5 days
because of state treason — then appeared again for months — then Prussian govt
forbade Marx's residence in Prussia.

¶ 135 — Marx's defence speech at his trial — quite legalistic, detailed
articles 222 - 367 Code Penal — ~~not in common law country~~
Feb 7, 1849

" We gentlemen are not Constitutionalists, but we put ourselves in the position of the
Savilleton who indeed used us in order to heat them on their own grounds with their own
weapons. We therefore make constitutional usage."

" deals with insults — ridicules it — Chief Procurator Zweigfeld
not applicable to our newspaper
then argues — insult + slander
not even in Cologne but Berlin
didn't even have post at time

Article 367 — deals with calumny (slander) — false malicious statement

requires an ~~accusation~~ ^{specific} accusation of specific facts "which if they were true would expose the
person to criminal or correctional prosecution by the police, or even only to the contempt
and hatred of the citizens"

article was important — "the prediction of the counter-revolution took place subsequently

NB
our case

To many

135 ctd —

"The ministry had the delusion that the aristocracy was defeated; that it had only a single task left, to rob the people of its revolutionary achievements in the interest of one class, the bourgeoisie."

"What we denounced in an incriminating article was nothing more and nothing less than the palpable appearance, torn from our immediate environment, of a systematic counterrevolutionary activity on the part of the Hansemann Ministry & the German government in general."

"If the Prussian counterrevolution is not soon frustrated by a Prussian popular revolution, freedom of association and of the press will be completely destroyed. It has already been partly killed under martial law..."

"On what was the March Revolution stammered? It reformed only the highest political summit, it left ~~at~~ the foundation of that summit untouched - the old bureaucracy, the old army, the old courts, the old judges, who were born trained & grown gray in the service of absolutism. The first duty of the press, therefore, is to undermine all the foundations of the existing political system. (Applause)

Harry K *Note* *Greatest*

An Open Letter To The Government and Parliament of Canada

From
James G. Endicott, Editor of The Canadian Far Eastern Newsletter,
former Chairman, Canadian Peace Congress

Ladies and Gentlemen

It has lately come to my attention that in a newspaper item, my name and organization, along with about 70 other organizations, is on a secret list given by the Department of Manpower and Immigration to certain officers of the Crown for purposes of obstruction, harassment and surveillance. This is to be done in such a way as to avoid causing embarrassment to the Minister by questions raised in the House of Commons.

I am reminded that in old British laws, which are probably part of the common Law of Canada, one aspect of treason or sedition is "Words or actions calculated to disturb the tranquility of Her Majesty's Ministers".

Regarding The Canadian Far Eastern Newsletter, I would like to explain why I started it in 1948. I felt the great upheaval in China was largely misunderstood and misrepresented in the West. I had a personal experience, as an advisor to Chiang Kai-shek in the New Life Movement and as a volunteer in the American intelligence service, 1944-45. I had ample opportunity to know and learn from many of the Communist and Democratic League leaders of the revolution and I became convinced that the Chinese Revolution was historically justified and necessary, that it would succeed and the result would be vast improvement, especially among the impoverished peasants. History has justified that estimate. You may recall that I was denounced at that time in some government, some press and most church circles as a "Communist propagandist".

Another reason was that I was convinced that the United States policy regarding China was morally wrong, politically stupid and could lead to disaster. Mr. Walter Gordon, at a Couchiching Conference once described it as "rigid, illogical, dangerous and doomed to failure. We are afraid you will go to war to save your failure." That is what I was afraid of, also. Will you please recall Dulles and his stupid and evil "brink of war" policy and the times the atom bomb threat was used, at Dien Bien Phu in Vietnam, in Korea, at Quemoy?

Do you remember the antics of the China Lobby? The dismissal and charge of treason against the best China experts in the State Department? We are lucky to have escaped with only the wars in Korea and Vietnam. In the 1950's we might have been engulfed in disaster. I believe my *Newsletter* contributed to the best interests of Canada, commonsense and plain political decency.

When you consider the present state of Canada's relations with China, the sale of wheat which greatly helped our economy, the large numbers of visits both ways now, not only of the Toronto Symphony Orchestra but of 50 members of the Royal Military College, does it not appear slightly absurd to be wasting the taxpayers' money on this sort of surveillance?

What Was The Purpose Of The Peace Movement?

It is surprising to me that anyone could consider the peace movement subversive. It was aimed at restoring a little commonsense and reality to politics, to replace the war hysteria prevailing from 1947 onwards.

Please recall Mr. Louis St. Laurent's speech in Toronto, January 13, 1947: "Within my life-time, we in Canada shall be compelled to participate in the greatest and most destructive war ever waged in the history of mankind to preserve our Christian civilization from atheistic Bolshevism".

Mr. Mackenzie King, after "consulting with his mother in heaven and sitting at the right paw of his dog" and listening to Winston Churchill, came to a conclusion of "war in a matter

of weeks". The Monetary Times of Montreal declared editorially that war was inevitable and that in as much as the Communists would gain by peace, "the war will have to be of our own making". Colliers Magazine in October 1951 gave a whole issue to this theme.

The Peace Movement promoted a rational commonsense proposal to give up faith in H-bombs, to end an arms race and go in for peaceful co-existence and social reform. That program would have avoided the mess we are in now with arms races, approaching depression and a probable attempt at a solution by war.

In closing I would like to remind you of some of your own past history.

You may recall that Louis Riel, who had a just and reasonable grievance was hanged by the Government of Canada. I ask you to study once again one of the greatest speeches ever made in Canada's House of Commons by the young Wilfred Laurier. For your convenience I reprint part of that speech as well as part of the remarkable speech made by Prime Minister Pierre Trudeau, eighty three years later, when a monument was raised to Louis Riel. In this connection we might recall a saying of one who was crucified for his convictions: "Woe to you, for your fathers stoned the prophets (rebels) and you build their monuments".

I would like to emphasize two quotations:

"sir, what is hateful ... is not rebellion but the despotism which induces that rebellion: what is hateful are not the rebels, but the men, who having the enjoyment of power, do not discharge the duties of power, they are the men, who having the power to redress wrongs, refuse to listen to the petitions that are sent to them: they are the men who, when they are asked for a loaf, give a stone ..." Wilfred Laurier.

"In a democracy it is all too easy for the majority to forget the rights of a minority and for a remote and powerful government to ignore its protests.

"It is all too easy, should disturbances erupt, to crush them in the name of law and order. We must never forget that in the long run, democracy is judged by the way the majority treats the minority. Louis Riel's battle is not yet won".

Pierre Trudeau

Ladies and Gentlemen:

The world is now entering into a period of great upheaval. The rich nations are getting richer and using those riches to further exploit and impoverish the poor nations as the United Nations Conference in Ottawa, January 1978, clearly demonstrates.

I believe we would be well advised in this situation to recall some words of Abraham Lincoln:

"Any people anywhere being inclined and having the power, have the right to rise up and shake off the existing government and form a new one that suits them better. This is a most valuable, a most sacred right, a right which we hope and believe is to liberate the world". (about Mexico, 1848)

"Secret lists" may be used for the purposes of planning for war, continuing the arms race, refusing to curb the power of the transnational corporations and rejecting the solution of fundamental social reform. In such a case they are an evidence of political incompetence and moral cowardice.

Yours faithfully,

James G. Endicott

Harry K

FIRST DAY OF ISSUE JOUR D'EMISSION

Quotes



LOUIS DAVID RIEL

(1844-1885)

Foundmaker · Batoche · Fort Garry · Dumont · Frog Lake · Cut Knife Hill
Fort Pitt · Big Bear · Wolseley · Duck Lake · Middleton · Fish Creek

**REBEL · PATRIOT · REFORMER
LEADER OF THE MÉTIS PEOPLE**

FAMOUS CANADIANS SERIES ROSE CRAFT



IN HONOUR OF ALL PATRIOTS WHO
TAKE UP ARMS FOR JUSTICE

In June 1970 the Canadian Government issued a special stamp in honour of Louis Riel. Some time before that on Oct. 2, 1968 a monument of him was unveiled on a lawn near the Saskatchewan Legislative Assembly about a mile from the place where Louis Riel was hanged for treason. On the occasion of the hanging and on the occasion of the unveiling of the monument remarkable speeches were made, the first by Wilfrid Laurier who would become a famous Prime Minister and the second by Pierre Elliot Trudeau the present Prime Minister.

Wilfrid Laurier was challenged by the Tories who hanged Riel. They questioned his loyalty because he defended Riel. He replied in part, as follows:

Sir Wilfred Laurier "On Rebellion"

"Sir, what is hateful . . . is not rebellion but the despotism which induces that rebellion; what is hateful are not the rebels but the men, who having the enjoyment of power, do not discharge the duties of power; they are the men who having the power to redress wrongs, refuse to listen to the petitions that are sent to them; they are the men who, when they are asked for a loaf, give a stone..."

"I appeal upon this occasion as I did elsewhere, to every friend of liberty, to all those who during 25 years past have felt their hearts thrill whenever a struggle for freedom was going on in any corner of the world; with the Italians when they delivered their country from the yoke of Austria; with the Americans in their stupendous struggle for National unity; with the Mexicans in their successful attempt to resist the foreign domination the French Emperor sought to impose upon them; with the French themselves in their generous though often misguided efforts, to establish among themselves the bulwark of

freedom and responsible government; with the Danubian population when they attempted to rid themselves from the degrading domination of the Turks; and when at last, a section of our own countrymen rose in arms to claim rights long denied them, rights which were immediately acknowledged to be just—as soon as they were asked with bullets—are we to have no sympathy with them?

"Such were, Mr. Speaker, my sentiments. I spoke them elsewhere, I have had, since that time, occasion to realize that I have greatly shocked Tory editors and Tory members. Sir, I know what Tory loyalty is. Tories have always been famous for preaching loyalty to others. Tories have always been famous for being loyal as long as it was profitable to be so.

"Sir, I will not receive any lectures on loyalty from men with such a record. I am a British subject and I value the proud title as much as anyone in this House. But if it is expected of me that I shall allow fellow-countrymen, unfriended, undefended, unprotected, and unrepresented in this House, to be trampled underfoot by this government, I say this is not what I understand by loyalty. I would call that slavery . . ."

"Louis Riel's Battle Is Not Yet Won"

On the occasion of unveiling the monument to Louis Riel in Regina, the place where he was hanged for treason, Prime Minister Trudeau made a remarkable speech on Oct. 2, 1968. The magazine "Ukrainian Canadian" of May 1970, printed the text of the prepared notes. Here are some extracts: "Eighty-three years ago in the Mounted Police barracks in Regina, Louis Riel awaited execution as a convicted traitor. This afternoon we are assembled to unveil a monument in his honor.

"No man in Canadian history suffered as many reversals of fortune during his life. He was, in turn, unofficial leader of a provisional government, founder of the province of Manitoba, fugitive in exile, member of Parliament, outlaw, leader of another provisional government and prisoner.

"Yet it may be that none of the twists and turns in his tragic biography will be as important to the history of this country as the reversal of official and public opinion which this monument symbolizes.

"How many other Riels exist in Canada, beyond the fringe of accepted conduct, driven to believe that this country offers no answer to their needs and no solutions to their problems? How many of us understand the loneliness, the sense of futility of such a man? How many of us are willing to concede that future historians, in chronicling the events of our lives, may choose to emphasize and applaud the activities, not of the privileged majority but of some little-known leader of an unpopular minority?

"For me this is the lesson of Louis Riel. For me this is the reason why we are here.

"A democratic society and system of government, while among the grandest of human concepts, are among the most difficult to implement. In a democracy it is all too easy for the majority to forget the rights of the minority, and for a remote and powerful government to ignore its protests.

"It is all too easy, should disturbances erupt, to crush them in the name of the law and order. We must never forget that, in the long run, a democracy is judged by the way the majority treats the minority. Louis Riel's battle is not yet won."



CANADIAN CIVIL LIBERTIES ASSOCIATION

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Friday, February 17, 1978

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At his press conference following the revelation of the RCMP break-in against the Parti Quebecois, the Prime Minister of Canada was quoted as follows:

"Policemen break the law sometimes, I suppose, when they drive 80 miles an hour in order to catch the guy who is escaping from a bank... I think if in circumstances like that the law has to be broken technically in order to save a city, then, I think either it should be broken technically or the law should be changed..."

In the opinion of the Canadian Civil Liberties Association, what the RCMP was then accused of - burglary and theft - are not merely technical breaches of the law. They are serious criminal offences. It does not behove the Prime Minister to describe such outrages as though they involved nothing more than traffic violations. Nor can we accept the rather extravagant notion that any city in this country owes its survival to such illegal conduct.

If you believe that the Government's position on this issue is eroding public respect for the rule of law please don't accept it. There is an opportunity to do something. Join the Canadian Civil Liberties Association. Along with thousands of other Canadians you can make your voice heard and your views felt. If you are already a member please consider a special donation to help us meet the present crisis.

Please make cheques payable to the Canadian Civil Liberties Association, at 229 Yonge Street, Ste. 403, Toronto, Ontario. M5B 1N9

Thank you for considering us.

June Callwood

Emmett M. Hall
Honorary President

June Callwood

June Callwood
Vice-President

Pierre Berton

Pierre Berton
Director



(OVER)

Since the current rash of allegations against the RCMP began, the Canadian Civil Liberties Association has

published a full page newspaper ad impugning the Government's attitude to police law breaking and calling for quick action against the law breakers

petitioned the McDonald Royal Commission to

- recommend the speedy invocation of normal law enforcement measures
- conduct public examinations of the Cabinet Ministers concerned before the next Federal election
- appoint special counsel to represent aggrieved interests
- consider the case for reduction of police powers as well as the case for enlargement

promoted and participated in public meetings and debates in Halifax, Montreal, Toronto, Ottawa, and Regina

appeared on "Newsmagazine", "In Touch", "Decision", "Sunday Morning", "The Watson Report", "Canada A.M.", "90 Minutes Live", "The World at Six", CBC, CTV, Global, national news, and a host of regional and local TV and radio programs in both English and French.

Feb 19, 1979

SOCIALIST RIGHTS DEFENCE FUND

50 Thorncliffe Ave.
Toronto M4K 1V5

FROM OUR GROWING
NUMBER OF SUPPORTERS*

CHRISTINE JUDGE, Administrative Secretary
HARRY PAINE, Pres. of St. David's NDP, Treasurer

This press release, turned over to the mass media on February 19, 1979 by the Socialist Rights Defense Fund, despite its importance and the eminence of the committee's supporters, was completely ignored by the mass media as have all other SRDF press releases. Thus, to the McDonald Commission's cover-up, we have a mass media black-out added as well.

INTERNATIONAL:
Naomi Chomsky, Jessica Mitford,
Linus Pauling, Benjamin Spock

CANADA
ROBERT ALBRITTON, professor
of political science,
York University

MARY BOYCE, lawyer
ANDREW BREWIN, NDP-MP
DOUGLAS CAMPBELL, actor
CARL CUNEO, professor
of sociology,
McMaster University

KENNETH DANSON, lawyer
CHANDLER DAVIS, professor
of mathematics,
University of Toronto

DR. D. DICKMAN, psychiatrist
DR. JAMES J. ENDICOTT of
The Far East Newsletter

SAM FOX, president
of the Labour Council of
Metro Toronto

EDGAR Z. FRIEDENBERG,
professor of education,
Dalhousie University

DANNY GOLDSTICK, professor
of philosophy,
University of Toronto

CY GONICK of
Canadian Dimension

REV. DUKE T. GRAY of
the Unitarian Congregation,
Toronto

JOHN HARNEY, professor of
Canadian Studies, Atkinson College,
York University

GRACE HARTMAN, president of
the Canadian Union of
Public Employees

GREG KEALEY, professor of
history, Dalhousie University

PAT KERWIN, director
of political education, CLC

MARGARET LAURENCE, author
D. W. LIVINGSTONE, professor
of sociology, OISE

IAN LUMSDEN, professor
of political science,
York University

GEORGE MARTELL, author
MICHAEL MASON, professor
of history, Concordia University

TERRY MEAGHER,
secretary treasurer, OFL

G. J. & C. J. McEWEN of
Affairs of the Moment

MAX NEMNI, professeur
de science politique, Laval

B. D. PALMER, professor
of history, Queen's

LEO PANICH, professor
of political science,
Carleton University

GLEN PATTINSON,
Canadian district president IUE
(AFL-CIO/CLC)

ELEANOR WRIGHT PELRINE,
author

NORMAN PENNER, professor
of political science,
Glendon Campus, York

H. C. PENTLAND, professor
of economics,
University of Manitoba

AL PURDY, poet

JAMES W. RINEHART, professor
of sociology, University of

WESTERN ONTARIO

SATU REPO, author

CHARLES ROACH, lawyer

WAYNE ROBERTS of *Forward*

ELLIOT ROSE, professor
of history,

University of Toronto

JOE ROSENBLATT, poet

SIMON ROSENBLUM, professor
of sociology,

Laurentian University

JOE ROSENTHAL, artist

CLAYTON C. RUBY, lawyer

J. L. SKOBERG, NDP-MLA,
Saskatchewan

DENIS SMITH of
The Canadian Forum

NEIL TUDIVER,
department of social work,
University of Manitoba

A. L. WERNICK, professor
of sociology,

Trent University

STEPHEN WILLIAMS of
Exile and Toronto Life

*organizations listed for
identification only

The Krever Commission has been asked to require the RCMP to turn over the records of its agents involved in the harassment of the trade union and socialist movements by longtime Toronto socialist activist, Ross Dowson.

Dowson, who is suing the RCMP for half a million dollars for slander, has just given testimony to the counsel of the Royal Commission on Confidentiality of Health Records under Mr. Justice Horace Krever. He has turned over two letters which were surreptitiously circulated at the convention of the youth movement of the League for Socialist Action in December 1972 at which time Dowson was the latter's executive secretary. The letters revealed medical information designed to compromise a leading member of the organization and create unease in its ranks, which was in all probability stolen from the health records in the care of the Ontario government. The Krever Commission recently ended its investigation of a Globe and Mail reporter's article that claimed that the RCMP obtained such information illegally in its campaign of dirty tricks against radicals, when Justice Krever withdrew an order that the reporter appear before it to give evidence.

In a somewhat similar case in the United States involving FBI harassment of a socialist group, Judge T.P. Griesa of the Federal District court in Manhattan ordered the FBI to release the files on its unidentified informers who spied on the group. The Attorney-General of the United States of America is now in contempt of court for his refusal to do so.

Dowson's slander suit which was initiated over a year ago has been stalled from proceeding to the Examination for Discovery by the representatives of the Queen seeking a dismissal of the action. Over February 8 and 9, Dowson's lawyer Harry Kopyto cross-examined RCMP Commissioner Murray Sexsmith concerning the latter's contention that an RCMP statement was a protected official communication and not subject to court action. Kopyto argued that the RCMP abused the protection in order to avoid answering the question put to the solicitor-general by Ontario Attorney-General Roy McMurtry in response to inquiries by the NDP as to whether the RCMP had investigated that party. The solicitor-general's report claimed that the RCMP has not investigated the NDP "as such" but NDP members who were alleged to be LSAers and "ex-Communists" who it smeared as "subversives!"

For further information, contact Christine Judge, administrative secretary of the Socialist Rights Defence Fund - 466-1307.

390 Bay Street, Suite 700,

Toronto, Ontario

Harry Kopyto, LL.B.

Barrister

Tel. (416) 862-7020

"RCMP sources have said that what began as an investigation of the Raffle rushroom, the principal figures in the party. They said information on finances, friction and party strategy was sent into RCMP Ottawa headquarters and from there, they presume, it went to the Solicitor-General's Department."

Dear

Amidst widespread concern that the Royal Canadian Mounted Police has been using its extensive powers to frustrate and vilify the legitimate and legal activities of various dissident groups, a slander action is presently being pursued in the Federal Court of Canada against the Royal Canadian Mounted Police. I am writing to you as a fellow civil libertarian in the hope that you will give serious consideration to offering your support to this case.

The factual background of the suit is brief but important. In response to inquiries by Ontario NDP leader Stephen Lewis concerning reports of RCMP spying and interference in the Ontario New Democratic Party, Attorney-General Roy McMurtry, in December, released a statement summarizing the RCMP rationale for such spying: the "infiltration" of the Ontario NDP and Waffle by various "subversive" elements: "the League for Socialist Action and ex-communists".

The specific charges against the League for Socialist Action and its leadership, including Mr. Ross Dowson, the Plaintiff in this action, who was the executive secretary and chairman of the LSA at all relevant times, were that they tended to "promote changes brought on by violent and undemocratic means" and were thereby "subversive". Besides gravely undermining the political integrity of those charged with this slander, this RCMP statement makes the individuals subject to prosecution under the Criminal Code.

It is a matter of record that the League for Socialist Action and Mr. Dowson have never advocated the use of violent and undemocratic means to promote social change. Even Roy McMurtry was moved to admit that the RCMP statement was "vague" and "ambiguous".

We enclose various items for your perusal, including a copy of the Globe & Mail article in the December 13, 1977 issue announcing the suit, an interview with Mr. Dowson taken from the February 1978 issue of Forward and a copy of a written submission presented to the McDonald Commission of Inquiry into RCMP activities on January 18, 1978.

It should be obvious from this material that it was the New Democratic Party and not the League for Socialist Action that was the real target of the RCMP. In fact, as Lawrence Martin

February 25, 1978

wrote in the Globe & Mail on September 10, 1977:

"RCMP sources have said that what began as just an investigation of the Waffle mushroomed to cover almost all the principal figures in the party. They said information on finances, friction and party strategy was sent into RCMP Ottawa headquarters and from there, they presume, it went to the Solicitor-General's Department."

At present, the action is rapidly moving towards trial which is expected in the fall of this year. The middle part of the pre-trial process, the examination of discovery, is slated to take place this spring.

A powerful wave of support for this action from individuals concerned with the protection of civil liberties could exert an important restraining influence on the Federal government and on the RCMP with reference to activities directed against individuals and organizations representing dissident minority views but operating in full accordance with the laws of the country. The need to respond is urgent.

For this reason, I would ask you to indicate your support for this legal initiative and the Socialist Rights Defence Committee established solely for the purpose of supporting this action by endorsing the brief statement attached to this letter and returning it to my office at your earliest convenience.

Yours very truly,

HARRY KOPYTO

HK:cmm

Encl.

We wish to indicate our support as concerned civil libertarians for the suit initiated by Mr. Ross Dowson, against the Royal Canadian Mounted Police. We understand that the purpose of this suit is to establish the legitimacy and legality of socialist thought in face of charges of "subversion" by the RCMP.

We believe that individuals have the right to express their views free of unwarranted and unsubstantiated allegations of subversion.

We believe that the charge of subversion has been used and is being used to justify intervention in the internal affairs and the harassment of such legal organizations as the New Democratic Party and the organized labour movement and we further believe that such activities threaten to whittle away at the democratic right to dissent in Canada.

Though we may not necessarily agree with the political views of Mr. Dowson, we do believe that the real test of a democracy is its ability to tolerate and respect individuals whose views may not coincide with those of the majority at any given time.

SIGNATURE

Please return this statement as soon as possible to HARRY KOPYTO, Barrister, 390 Bay Street, Suite 700, Toronto, Ontario.

D. P. 3

REPORT ON RCMP SUIT - MARCH 16, 1978

The response which we have received to our solicitations for endorsement of the Socialist Rights Defence Committee, despite the absence of support at this early stage from prominent figures in the New Democratic Party, conclusively indicates and confirms that our suit is attracting enough political support to organize a serious defence campaign.

Now that the Revolutionary Workers' League has been satisfied that it has not legal cause arising out of the Western Guard incidents, our suit is the only concrete political action which the entire left has taken against the RCMP, other than submitting briefs to various commissions.

Though it is difficult to predict what political benefits might come to the movement from such defence work, there can be no doubt that some benefits will be coming.

First and foremost, we will have an opportunity to educate the entire left around the issue of how to deal with red-baiting and charges of violence and subversion against revolutionary socialist organizations. As Ellie has pointed out on previous occasions in other contexts, we have almost an historical obligation to educate the ultra-left around the question of defensive tactics.

More concretely, the suit is likely to involve us in political work with those individuals and groups in Canada whose political evolution and political positions and programme are similar to ours in many respects. (The response to our support

statement from Cy Gonick, Norm Penner and Leo Panitch confirms this.) It is not at all excluded that we will be able to develop a on-going collaboration with these individuals and other endorsers in the defence work.

The next step in our defence work should be to consolidate political support in order to establish the case firmly. Our early solicitations were directed to individuals who we had reason to believe might respond to our request. Once we shore up our endorsers with a few well-known NDPers, we will be in position to issue a further request for endorsement form hundreds of other people.

Once we have taken this step, we will be in a position to launch a serious fund-drive. As stated earlier, I anticipate total fees and disbursements will come to approximately \$10,000.00.

It may be desirable during the fund-drive to attempt to organize actions to raise funds or to publicize the case and develop political opposition to the RCMP. Such activities might include rallies, speaking engagements outside of Toronto, demonstrations and social and educations activities. It would be logical to have the Defence Committee issue news and up-date bulletins, fund-drive appeals and other progress reports.

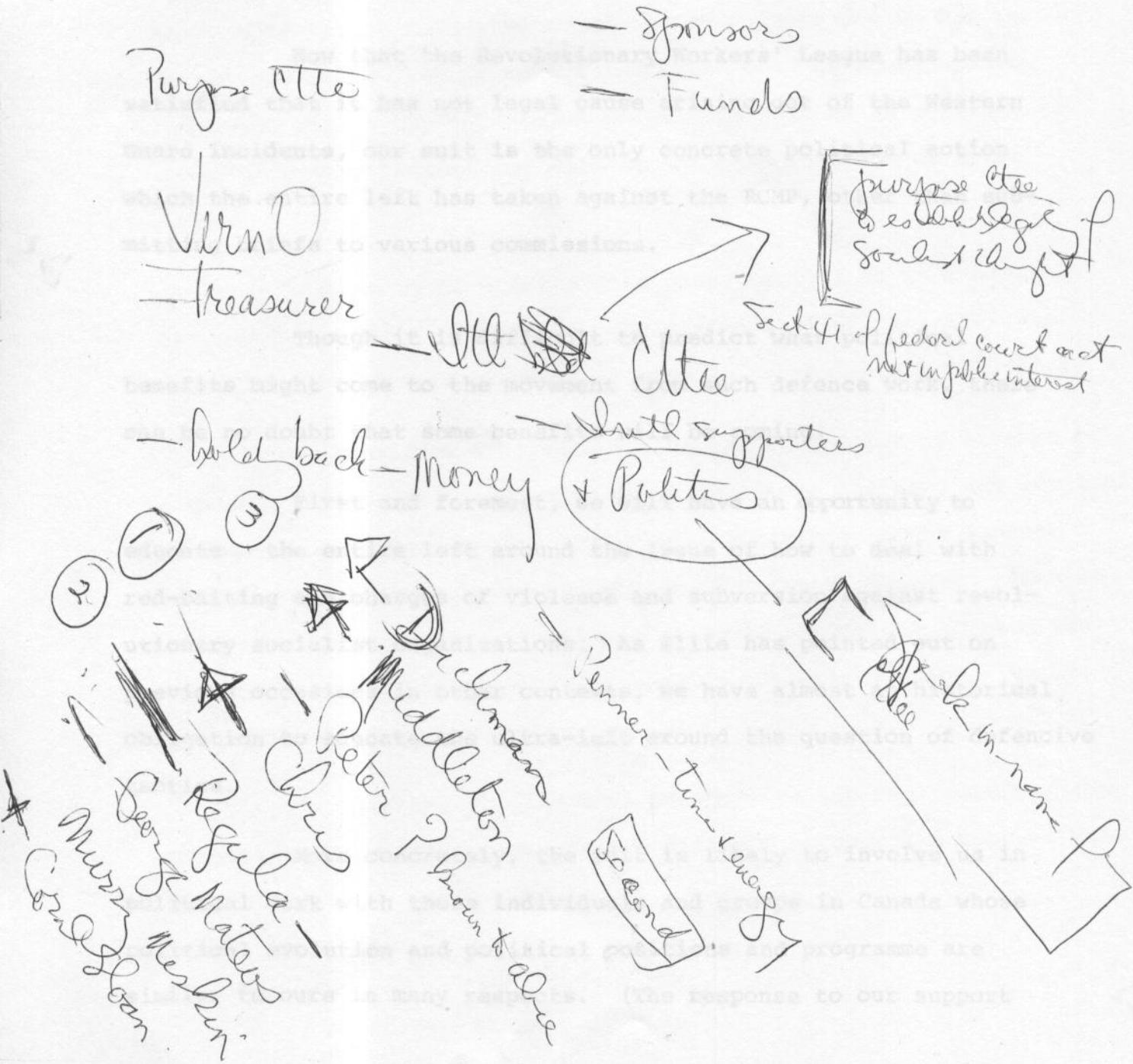
In order to give this perspective any real meaning, the SL will have to find resources among itself to carry on much of this defence work.

It would be desirable to have a member of the movement act as secretary treasurer, with the assistance of others. This is the main challenge before us.

HK:cm

HARRY KOPYTO

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of Ctee



390 Bay Street, Suite 700,
Toronto, Ontario

Harry Kopyto, LL.B.

Barrister

Tel. (416) 862-7020

March 28, 1978

Paul Copeland
COPELAND, KING
Barristers, Solicitors
37 Madison Avenue
Toronto, Ontario
M5R 2S2

Dear Mr. Copeland:

re: Dowson v. Her Majesty the Queen

Further to my letter to you dated January 27th, in which I provided you with considerable material explaining the nature of the above court action, I am now writing specifically to request that the Law Union formally identify itself as a supporter of the Plaintiff in this action.

We have now obtained support from civil libertarians across the country including John Harney, Terry Meagher, Grace Hartman, Cy Gonick, Norman Penner, Leo Panitch, Charles C. Roach, Clayton C. Ruby, the Reverend Duke T. Gray, and a wide range of other academic, civil liberties and labour and NDP supporters. We believe that the addition of the law union to our list of supporters will help to establish the significance of this court action and its important civil liberties implications.

In addition to requesting your formal support, I hope that the Law Union might consider becoming actively involved in this case in whatever way it deems desirable. I would specifically suggest that it would be of immense use and advantage if those members of the Law Union presently constituting a working group around the RCMP issue would consider constituting themselves an advisory body to myself in the conduct of this court action.

I would therefore this specific suggestion as the type of work your support might involve you in if you so desire.

I would appreciate receiving your reply to my letter at your earliest convenience.

Yours very truly,

390 Bay Street, Suite 700,
Toronto, Ontario

Harry Kopyto, LL.B.

Barrister

Tel. (416) 862-7020

March 30, 1978

Ross Dowson,
53 Gerrard Street, West,
Toronto, Ontario.

You're very truly,

Dear Mr. Dowson:

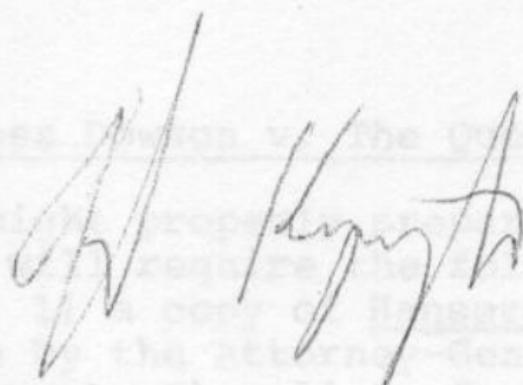
re: Ross Dowson v. The Queen

In order that we might properly prepared for the examinations for discovery, I will require the following material at your earliest convenience: 1) a copy of Hanserd for Dec. 9, 1977 containing the statements made by the Attorney-General at that time concerning the RCMP statement; 2) a list of all those individuals who identified you as one of the individuals referred to in the RCMP statement between September 9 and 13, 1977; 3) whatever information is in your possession concerning statements made by former Solicitor-General Francis Fox and the Prime Minister Pierre Elliott Trudeau concerning the subversive nature of Trotskyism; 4) a list of pamphlets publically offered by you under your real name throughout your political career and up till 1970; 5) a copy of the Revolutionary Workers' League submission to the MacDonald Commission containing details on specific allegations of RCMP wrong-doing directed against the League for Socialist Action; 6) copies of income tax returns in your possession including your 1978 return when you have completed it; 7) to the best of your recollection, a list of all emoluments received by you arising out of your employment by the League for Socialist Action from the time of its conception until 1973, including whatever supporting material you might have; 8) similar information with reference to your employment by the Vanguard Bookstore and Forward Books; 9) a copy of business registration forms for the League for Socialist Action, if you have them in your possession and of the Socialist League, if such exist and if you have them in possession; 10) any records with reference to your employment and any jobs over the last five years other than those mentioned in the two items listed above; 11) any tape recordings, transcripts or articles written by you or speeches given by you with reference to the Trotskyist position on violence and, more generally, the methods to be used in achieving socialism in Canada; 12) any records in your possession concerning your membership and verifying your membership in the New Democratic Party; 13) the actual specific dates at which time you were elected chairman and executive secretary of the League for Socialist Action and the dates when you resigned these positions if you did in fact resign from such positions; 14) whatever newspaper clippings are in your possession identifying you as a member or leader of the League for Socialist Action and/or as a Trotskyist including newspaper coverage given to you during your numerous mayoralty campaigns in Toronto; 15) a general chronology of your

political career since 1934; 16) key articles and pamphlets and other information sources indicating that the LSA supported the New Democratic Party and urged its membership or other socialists to join the Party prior to the formation of the Waffle.

I expect that we will be discussing some of these items directly in the coming weeks.

Yours very truly,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "H. K. Flynn". The signature is fluid and cursive, with "H." and "K." connected at the top, and "Flynn" written below it.

HK:cmm

SOCIALIST RIGHTS DEFENCE FUND

50 Thorncliffe Ave.
Toronto M4K 1V5

FROM OUR GROWING
NUMBER OF SUPPORTERS *



ROBERT ALBRITTON, professor
of political science,
York University

KENNETH DANSON, lawyer
CY GONICK of
Canadian Dimension

REV. DUKE T. GRAY of
the Unitarian Congregation,
Toronto

JOHN HARNEY

GRACE HARTMAN, president of
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GREG KEALEY, professor of
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IAN LUMSDEN, professor
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of Labor

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AL PURDY, poet

SATU REPO, author

CHARLES ROACH, lawyer

JOE ROSENBLATT, poet

CLAYTON C. RUBY, lawyer

STEPHEN WILLIAMS of
Exile and Toronto Life

* organizations listed
for identification only

CHRISTIE A JUDGE, Administrative Secretary
HARRY FALE, Pres. of St. David's NDP, Treasurer

April 18, 1978

... undermining the political integrity of those
... is slander, such charges leave individuals subject
... object to prosecution under the Criminal Code.

Dear

Dionne Kennedy

for US sponsors

Over the past several months, Canadian political life has witnessed a series of scandalous revelations concerning illegal and undemocratic activities of Canada's Royal Canadian Mounted Police.

In many respects, the unveiling of the massive network of political spying and criminal acts committed by the RCMP, which include acts of arson, theft, forcible confinement, illegal wire-tapping and active political interference in the activities of legitimate and legal organizations has taken on the character of a Canadian "Watergate".

These revelations have confirmed that the organized trade union movement and Canada's labour party, the New Democratic Party, as well as activist organizations in Quebec and among the Native people have been the real targets of the illegal activities of the RCMP.

In face of concrete evidence that the RCMP had been infiltrating and spying on Canada's labour party, the New Democratic Party, the RCMP in December of last year released a statement summarizing its rationale for such spying: the "infiltration" of the New Democratic Party by various "subversive" elements.

In its statement released on December 9th, the RCMP singled out unnamed ex-members of the Communist Party and the League for Socialist Action and its leadership, as being the key "subversives".

The specific charges against the League for Socialist Action and its leadership were that they tended to "promote changes brought on by violent and undemocratic means" and were thereby "subversive".

Besides gravely undermining the political integrity of those charged with this slander, such charges leave individuals subjected to them subject to prosecution under the Criminal Code of Canada.

Ross Dowson, the executive secretary and chairman of the League for Socialist Action at all relevant times, has launched a slander action against the RCMP in the Federal Court of Canada in order to defend himself and all socialists from incriminating charges of advocating force and violence.

It is a matter of record that the LSA never did and Ross Dowson and associates never advocated the use of violent and undemocratic means to promote social change. Even the Attorney General of the Province of Ontario was moved to admit that the RCMP statement was "vague" and "ambiguous". I enclose a newspaper clipping from the Toronto Globe & Mail, December 13, 1977, and an interview with Ross Dowson taken from the February 1978 issue of Forward which will provide you with more detail concerning the factual background of the action.

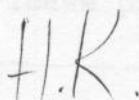
It is the feeling of growing numbers of civil libertarians in Canada that this suit could exert an important restraining influence on the Federal government and on the RCMP with reference to activities directed against individuals and organizations representing dissenting minority views but operating in full accordance with the laws of the country.

Public supporters of the Socialist Rights Defence Fund (SRDF), established solely for the purpose of supporting this suit, already include prominent representatives from the New Democratic Party, the labour movement, and the civil liberties and academic communities. A partial list appears on the letterhead of the SRDF.

I am writing to you on behalf of the SRDF, and as Ross Dowson's lawyer, in order to ask you to seriously consider offering your support to this case. Because of your international reputation and prestige, we believe that the addition of your name to our list of supporters would assist significantly in establishing the importance of this court action and the political principle of the right to dissent involved in it.

For this reason, I would ask you to sign the enclosed statement of support, and return it to the Defence Fund as soon as possible.

Yours very truly,



HARRY KOPYTO

We wish to indicate our support as concerned civil libertarians for the suit initiated by Mr. Ross Dowson, against the Royal Canadian Mounted Police. We understand that the purpose of this suit is to establish the legitimacy and legality of socialist thought in face of charges of "subversion" by the RCMP.

We believe that individuals have the right to express their views free of unwarranted and unsubstantiated allegations of subversion.

We believe that the charge of subversion has been used and is being used to justify intervention in the internal affairs and the harassment of such legal organizations as the New Democratic Party and the organized labour movement and we further believe that such activities threaten to whittle away at the democratic right to dissent in Canada.

Though we may not necessarily agree with the political views of Mr. Dowson, we do believe that the real test of a democracy is its ability to tolerate and respect individuals whose views may not coincide with those of the majority at any given time.

SIGNATURE _____

NAME (Please print or type) _____

Address _____

Please return this statement as soon as possible to the Socialist Rights Defence Fund, 50 Thorncliffe Avenue, Toronto, Ontario, Canada. M4K 1V5

Slander action launched on RCMP 'subversion' charge

A number of members of the New Democratic Party, the trade union movement, the academic community and civil liberties organizations are declaring their support for a slander action launched against the Royal Canadian Mounted Police arising out of that force's secret spying activities directed against civil rights in Canada and, specifically, the New Democratic Party.

The statement signed by the above individuals and now being widely circulated along with other relevant material, reads as follows:

"We wish to indicate our support as concerned civil libertarians for the suit initiated by Mr. Ross Dowson, against the Royal Canadian Mounted Police.

"We understand that the purpose of this suit is to establish the legitimacy and legality of socialist thought in face of charges of subversion by the RCMP.

"We believe that individuals have the right to express their views free of unwarranted and unsubstantiated allegations of subversion.

"We believe that the charge of subversion has been used and is being used to justify intervention in the internal affairs and the harassment of such completely legal organizations as the New Democratic Party and the organized labour movement and we further believe that such activities threaten to whittle away at the democratic right to dissent in Canada.

"Though we may not necessarily agree with the political views of Mr. Dowson, we do believe that the real test of a democracy is its ability to tolerate and respect individuals whose views may not coincide with those of the majority at any given time.

While claiming not to have investigated the NDP as such, despite accumulation of evidence to the contrary, an RCMP statement made public on December 9 affirmed that it had investigated an extensive current that developed as an integral part of the NDP, the Waffle, which it alleges invited into that party ex-members of the Communist Party and members of the Canadian Trotskyist movement, specifically the League for Socialist Action, which it defined as subversive, as tending "to promote changes brought on by violent and undemocratic means."

Ross Dowson, the plaintiff in the suit, was chairman and executive secretary of the League for Socialist Action during the relevant period. He is claiming that the RCMP statement, which was described in commentary by Ontario's Attorney-General, Roy McMurtry, as "vague and ambiguous," slanders his and his co-thinkers' political integrity and

leaves them open to prosecution under at least two sections of the Criminal Code.

Supporters of the suit say broad support for this action from individuals concerned with the protection of civil liberties, as well as leaders in the NDP and trade unions, could exert an important restraining influence on the federal government and on the RCMP with reference to activities directed against individuals and organizations representing dissenting minority views but operating in full accordance with the laws of the country.

In addition, the suit confronts NAME directly the charge of subversion ADDRESS which has traditionally been used by the RCMP to isolate and make illegal Marxist and socialist groups.

The suit, launched in the Federal Court of Canada on December 15, is moving rapidly to its second stage, the examination for discovery. Harry Kopyto, Mr. Dowson's counsel and a civil rights lawyer, said that this stage of the suit will give Mr. Dowson an opportunity to obtain evidence relevant to RCMP "malice" against him and the others maligned. Such evidence could unmask the whole story of RCMP spying on the NDP and trade unions.

The following constitutes a partial list of 20 supporters of the case to date, organizations are listed for identification only:

Robert Albrton, professor of political science, York University; Kenneth Danson, lawyer; Cy Gonick, Canadian Dimension; Rev. Duke T. Gray, Unitarian Congregation, Toronto; John Harney; Grace Hartman, president of the Canadian Union of Public Employees; Greg Kealey, professor of history, Dalhousie University; Ian Lumsden, professor of political science, York University; George Martell, author; Michael Mason, professor of history, Concordia University; Terry Meagher, vice-president, Ontario Federation of Labour; Leo Panitch, professor of political science, Carleton University; Eleanor Wright Peltine, author; Norman Penner, professor of political science, York University; Al Purdy, poet; Satu Repo, author; Charles Roach, lawyer; Joe Rosenblatt, poet; Clayton C. Ruby, lawyer; Stephen Williams, Exile and Toronto Life.

For further information, contact Christine Judge, Administrative Secretary of the Socialist Rights Defence Fund, 50 Thorncliffe Avenue, Toronto M4K 1V5, telephone 466-1307 or Mr. Harry Kopyto, Mr. Dowson's counsel, 390 Bay Street, Suite 700, Toronto M5H 2Y2, telephone 862-7020.

-from the April 19/78 issue of

POLITICAL ECONOMIC AND RELIGIOUS FREEDOM The Commonwealth



Rosemary Brown

Allan Blakeney

Grant Notley

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The Commonwealth, 1630 Quebec St., Regina, Sask. S4P 1J2

ATTENDU que la pierre de touche du
le droit des citoyens à exprimer leur

(dated - found in 1978)

12-15 R.C.M.P.

WHEREAS the cornerstone of the democratic process is the right of citizens to express political dissent without fear that their civil liberties will be jeopardized,

AND WHEREAS recent revelations of illegal and questionable activities by the R.C.M.P. and other police forces against political parties, labour unions and others in the name of national security subvert the rule of law and demonstrate lack of ministerial responsibility and control of the police,

AND WHEREAS it is important that the police know the difference between political subversion and political dissent in order that any group or individual in society can advocate reform and change in a free and open manner without intimidation or violation of their civil rights,

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the N.D.P. Councils and Caucus, both provincial and federal, demand that the terms of reference for both internal and external security be clearly defined by Parliament and that proper ministerial direction of the police and ministerial responsibility be exercised,

and that all future activities of the R.C.M.P. in a security area be under the scrutiny of a committee composed of the elected representatives of the people of Canada,

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the N.D.P. demand a complete investigation and public exposure of any activities, past and present, of security police to undermine, infiltrate or otherwise hamper the legal activities of citizens in unions, political parties, and pressure groups.

12-15 G.R.C.

ATTENDU que la pierre de touche du processus démocratique est le droit des citoyens à exprimer leur opinion politique sans craindre de mettre en danger leurs libertés civiles,

ET ATTENDU que de récentes révélations sur des activités illégales et douteuses de la part de la G.R.C. et d'autres forces de police contre des partis politiques, des syndicats et d'autres groupes au nom de la sécurité nationale sont des infractions à la loi et démontrent le manque de responsabilité ministérielle et de contrôle de la police,

ET ATTENDU qu'il est important que la police connaisse la différence entre subversion politique et désaccord politique pour que chaque groupe ou individu dans notre société puisse défendre le changement et la réforme d'une manière libre et ouverte sans intimidation ou violation de ses droits civils,

QU'IL SOIT DONC RESOLU que les Conseils et Caucus du N.P.D., aux niveaux provincial et fédéral, exigent que les termes de référence pour la sécurité intérieure et extérieure soient clairement définis par le Parlement et qu'il y ait exercice adéquat de la direction ministérielle de la police et de la responsabilité ministérielle,

et que toutes les activités futures de la G.R.C. en matière de sécurité soient sous le contrôle d'un comité composé des représentants élus de la population canadienne,

ET QU'IL SOIT DE PLUS RESOLU que le N.P.D. exige une investigation complète et un étalage public de toute activité, passée et présente, de la police de sécurité qui ait visé à saper, infiltrer ou gêner les activités légales de citoyens dans les syndicats, les partis politiques et les groupes de pression.

SOCIALIST RIGHTS DEFENCE FUND

50 Thorncliffe Ave.
Toronto M4K 1V5

FROM OUR GROWING NUMBER OF SUPPORTERS *



ROBERT ALBRITTON, professor of political science,
York University

KENNETH DANSON, lawyer
CY GONICK of
Canadian Dimension

REV. DUKE T. GRAY of
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GRACE HARTMAN, president of
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JOE ROSENBLATT, poet

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STEPHEN WILLIAMS of
Exile and Toronto Life

* organizations listed for
identification only

CHRISTINA JUDGE, Administrative Secretary
HARRY PAINE, Pres. of St. David's NDP, Treasurer

May 1, 1978

While the case takes on the form of a personal suit, the aim is to make a substantial and concrete contribution to the various protests such as those being launched by the Canadian Civil Liberties Association and the League des droits et libertés canadiens against such rights.

Is it tolerable to you that fellow Canadians should be declared "subversive" by the Royal Canadian Mounted Police without a right to defend themselves or contest such a charge? Is it tolerable that the New Democratic Party should be subjected to a massive investigation by the RCMP on the basis that the activities of individuals arbitrarily declared to be subversive had to be put "in proper perspective"?

In a statement made public on December 9, 1977, the Royal Canadian Mounted Police accused the Waffle of having invited "subversives" who "tend to promote changes brought on by violent and undemocratic means" to join its ranks. The subversives were declared to be "ex-communists, Trotskyists and the League for Socialist Action".

This RCMP statement was released by Ontario's Attorney General, Roy McMurtry, in response to questions posed by Stephen Lewis following a Globe & Mail report on September 10th of last year which stated that:

"RCMP sources have said that what began as just an investigation of the Waffle mushroomed to cover almost all the principal figures in the party."

Ex-NDP Leader Stephen Lewis said at the time of the release of the statement that the RCMP must have "lost its grip on reality" in deciding certain members of the party's Waffle wing represented a threat to national security during the early 1970s.

Six days after the RCMP charges were made public, Ross Dowson, the chairman and executive secretary of the League for Socialist Action at the relevant time, launched a slander action, Dowson v. Her Majesty the Queen, in the Federal Court of Canada against the RCMP. The suit claims that the

RCMP statement, which was even described by Roy McMurtry as "vague" and "ambiguous", slanders the political integrity of Ross Dowson and his co-thinkers and leaves them open to prosecution under two sections of the Criminal Code.

While the case takes on the form of a personal suit, its aim is to make a substantial and concrete contribution to the various protests such as those being launched by the Canadian Civil Liberties Association and La Ligue des droits de l'Homme against RCMP violations of civil rights. It is also designed to help to establish the right to hold dissident views and in particular to establish the legitimacy of Socialist or Marxist views as ideas which may be legally held or promoted by lawful means.

Harry Kopyto, a civil rights lawyer and Mr. Dowson's counsel, has informed us that the next stage of the suit, the examinations for discovery, could unmask the whole story of RCMP spying on the NDP and trade unions.

The Socialist Rights Defence Fund, organized to provide financial and political support for this action, requests your support in two ways. Firstly, please review the material enclosed and if you agree with what we are doing, sign the Socialist Rights Defence Fund statement of purpose enclosed with this letter. This will permit us to add your name to our growing list of supporters.

Secondly, it costs a lot of money to fight and beat the RCMP in the courts. (Transcripts for the examinations for discovery are estimated to cost \$2,500.00 alone.) A contribution would be appreciated.

All supporters and contributors will be kept informed of the progress of the suit with regular update reports.

Yours truly,

C. A. Judge

CHRISTINE JUDGE
Administrative Secretary

SUPPORT THIS CRY FOR JUSTICE!

Trade union councils affiliated to the Canadian Labour Congress from Victoria, B.C. through to St. John, N.B. are already doing so. So too are professors from university law faculties, teachers, writers, civil libertarians, workers, both skilled and unskilled, men and women from almost every walk of life — among them

Peter McLaren, teacher and author of *Cries from the Corridor*

I support the Dowson suit because I want to ensure that our children are brought up in a world that respects justice and the rights of individuals to think and act critically and creatively without fear of being branded as subversives or looked upon as threats. Support for the Dowson suit is a crucial step in protecting our civil rights and preventing a climate of repression to be further established in this country.

Clayton C. Ruby, author of *Life Before Man, Lady Oracle, etc.*

Illegal actions are illegal no matter who does them. If the police do not respect the laws of the land and the individual's right to privacy, who will?

Gregory S. Kealey, professor and author of

Toronto Workers Respond to Industrial Capitalism 1867-1892
In an allegedly democratic society any role of the police which touches on politics should concern us all. The appalling behaviour of the RCMP in the late 1960s and early 1970s, now documented in the Krever, Keable, and McDonald Commissions, went far beyond the norms of a truly democratic society. We should all be working to make sure it doesn't happen again.

Svend Robinson, M.P., Burnaby, Spokesperson for NDP on Justice and Solicitor-general
Justice and democracy has its price. The RCMP have unlimited federal funds at their disposal. Mr. Dowson's lawyers are volunteering their services. But transcripts will cost thousands of dollars. The RCMP can be beaten in the courts, but it will require all of us to unite to see the case through. I urge you to extend financial support to Mr. Dowson's efforts to obtain justice.

Return this statement as soon as possible to the Socialist Rights Defence Fund, Christine Judge, administrative secretary, Harry Prime [president of St. David's NDP], treasurer, 50 Thorncliffe Avenue, Toronto, M4K 1V5.

<input type="checkbox"/> Add my name to the list of supporters.
<input type="checkbox"/> Enclosed please find a contribution to the Fund to help pay the legal costs.
SIGNATURE
NAME
ADDRESS

I seek justice. I seek to clear my name and those of my associates and the hundreds of known and thousands of unknown victims of RCMP "thought control" illegalities.



Peter McLaren



Margaret Atwood



Clayton C. Ruby



Gregory S. Kealey



Svend Robinson

I have been declared a subversive. So have my associates in an organization completely supportive of the New Democratic Party. So have other NDPers, unnamed but lumped together in that witch-hunt category "ex-Communists." This accusation was made in the Ontario Legislature, just three years ago, in a statement read by the attorney-general, backed up by the authority of the then solicitor-general of Canada and top RCMP officials. This word, used to justify RCMP interference in the daily press, the nature and scope of which has not been spelled out to this day, was uttered after careful consideration by persons who know full well that subversion is a grave offense under the Criminal Code.

It resulted in and justifies barn-burnings, stolen membership lists, harassment and detaining of individuals, mail openings and bug plantings, infringing on the civil rights of thousands of us. When the McDonald Commission was set up I and associates presented facts on many ominous incidents for its investigation. Nothing happened. Then suddenly, before the Ontario Royal Commission on the Security of Health Information, the RCMP confessed to having forged and circulated letters that I had submitted to it. Shortly after, in the McDonald Commission's release of highly selected and heavily censored Top Secret RCMP testimony, this appeared as Case 13, in Operation Checkmate.

In its Checkmate operations the RCMP resorted to the infamous fascist concept that, no matter their declared views and no matter their real actions, the "targets" were guilty of "dangerous thoughts", held in secret but known to those in authority. It was a massively organized assault, backed by the full resources of the state, to harass, disrupt, and if possible destroy a number of completely legitimate organizations admittedly innocent of violating even the slightest law or regulation governing this country.

The case of Dowson vs the RCMP has met with a massive blockage at every level of the courts. My half-million-dollar slander suit has so far been stymied from even reaching the preliminary stage of examination for discovery. A federal court judge dismissed one portion of it by declaring the contended statement to be privileged and not subject to suit. On December 9 my lawyers are appealing this ruling which would allow the government and the federal police to declare anyone at will to be subversive, and with complete impunity. When the McDonald Commission denied my lawyer an opportunity to appear before it, his appeal for a federal court order was turned down, with costs of \$800.

Immediately upon the RCMP's admission that it forged and distributed false information in violation of the law I urged the Ontario Attorney-General's office to lay charges. Upon its failure to do so my lawyers sought the agreement of a Toronto justice of the peace to allow the laying of charges. After 6 months of delays Attorney-general McMurry ordered a stay of proceedings to which Judge Allen complied. My lawyers are appealing this ruling which allows the RCMP to violate the law with impunity and compromises privately initiated prosecutions under justice of peace jurisdiction.

+

Dowson

I seek justice. I seek to clear my name and those of my associates and the hundreds of known and thousands of unknown victims of RCMP "thought control" illegalities.

Dowson

phoned Ligue des droits
de l'homme ~~the~~ ~~week~~

Thurs May 25/78

Concord has come at a worse time - this
weekend

required by your work - seek your support

Examinations for disclosure

New Sponsors

Legal advice committee of lawyers

Denton case
D

Sam Fox
Hershkovitz
Douglas C. Field

Pardon
for ne plus
francasier

They are on an answer
service - the torrent of Fr. wa
undecipherable to me.

Phoned back ~~Sam Fox~~
expressed our regret as to inability to attend

had to phone again

advising them to become
supporters of our case
mentioned advisory committee of
lawyers

PETITION ON RCMP WRONGDOING

Since the end of October 1977, there has been a wave of allegations and revelations concerning RCMP law breaking—burglary, theft, arson, mail opening, etc. Despite the gravity and quantity of the offenses involved (reportedly hundreds), as of May 1, 1978 not a single charge has been laid or disciplinary measure imposed.

While the McDonald Commission may well have a role to play, it must no longer be used as the excuse for delay and inaction. In the interests of both the reputation of the RCMP and the viability of the rule of law, the Canadian Civil Liberties Association and the signatories to this petition call upon the Federal Government immediately to invoke, as follows, the *normal* processes of law enforcement.

1. Initiate investigations, prosecutions, and disciplinary proceedings within its jurisdiction in such matters as mail openings and alleged RCMP misleading of Federal Cabinet Ministers.
 2. Transmit to the Provincial Attorneys General whatever evidence falls within their jurisdiction in such matters as break-ins, theft, arson, etc.

Each signature is accompanied by a contribution of at least one dollar to the CCLA Police Powers Petition Fund to counteract these and other excesses of police powers.

*Douglas,
Lewis back
petition;
ask support*

Dear Fellow NDPer:

We write to you in the conviction that you share our profound concern over the Federal government's handling

Fund to support our campaign against these excesses. The contribution of even such a nominal sum will clearly demonstrate the seriousness of the petitioners.

We're asking for your support.
Please sign the petition now and
circulate it quickly.

Douglas,
Lewis back
petition;
ask support

Dear Fellow NDPer:

We write to you in the conviction that you share our profound concern over the Federal government's handling of the crisis caused by the actions of the Security Division of the RCMP—the legalisms about the 400 break-ins, the rationalizations of "permissible" law-breaking, the refusal to prosecute or discipline any of the offenders until the completion of a prolonged royal commission, the contrast between the haste to amend and the hesitation to enforce the mail opening law, and the new doctrine according to which Cabinet Ministers are supposed to be kept ignorant of important police operations.

An organized response is needed and we welcome the initiative of the Canadian Civil Liberties Association in launching a nation-wide petition calling upon the Government of Canada to take concrete action without delay.

But this is a petition with a difference—it requires that each signature be accompanied by a donation of at least \$1.00 to a special CCLA Police Powers

Postal Code: _____

Phone: _____

The above signatures were collected by

Name: _____ donation
special

Address: _____

City: _____

Amount enclosed: \$ _____

Signature: _____

*David Lewis, C.C., Q.C.
Director, CCLA*

Return to CANADIAN CIVIL LIBERTIES ASSOCIATION 229 Yonge Street, Suite 403, Toronto, Ontario M5B 1N9

SOCIALIST RIGHTS DEFENCE FUND

50 Thorncliffe Ave.
Toronto M4K 1V5

FROM OUR GROWING
NUMBER OF SUPPORTERS *



ROBERT ALBRITTON, professor of political science, York University
KENNETH DANSON, lawyer CY GONICK of *Canadian Dimension*
REV. DUKE T. GRAY of the Unitarian Congregation, Toronto
JOHN HARNEY
GRACE HARTMAN, president of the Canadian Union of Public Employees
GREG KEALEY, professor of history, Dalhousie University
IAN LUMSDEN, professor of political science, York University
GEORGE MARTELL, author MICHAEL MASON, professor of history, Concordia University
TERRY MEAGHER, vice-president of the Ontario Federation of Labor
LEO PANICH, professor of political science, Carleton University
ELEANOR WRIGHT PELRINE, author NORMAN PENNER, professor of political science, Glendon Campus, York
AL PURDY, poet SATU REPO, author CHARLES ROACH, lawyer JOE ROSENBLATT, poet CLAYTON C. RUBY, lawyer STEPHEN WILLIAMS of *Exile and Toronto Life*
* organizations listed for identification only

CHRISTINE JUDGE, Administrative Secretary
HARRY PAINE, Pres. of St. David's NDP, Treasurer

L'espionnage de la Gendarmerie Royale sur le Nouveau Parti et les syndicats.

Comité de Défense des Droits des Syndicats formé par le Prof. Albritton et les deux hommes ci-dessus. D'abord, en tant que défenseurs du droit à la grève et au syndicat, en signant la déclaration du Comité des Droits des Syndicats, nous avons tous deux accordé une contribution. Nous étions contents de mener un procès et de faire face à la Gendarmerie Royale. Nos transcriptes étaient prétendument préjudiciables à elles (à \$2,500.00). C'est pourquoi les contributions en argent nous sont

le 5 juin 1978

Peut-on tolérer que des compatriotes soient jugés comme "subversifs" par la Gendarmerie Royale Canadienne sans pouvoir exercer leur droit de se défendre ou de contester une telle accusation? Peut-on tolérer que le Nouveau Parti Démocratique soit l'objet d'une investigation étendue de la part de la Gendarmerie Royale Canadienne, pour la raison qui n'en est pas une que les activités de quelques personnes jugées subversives puissent être évaluées "dans une juste perspective"?

Dans une déclaration devenue publique, le 9 décembre, 1977, la Gendarmerie Royale accusa le Waffle d'avoir invité dans leur rangs des "subversifs," soit des gens qui préconisent des changements sociaux par des moyens violents et anti-démocratiques. Ces subversifs étaient des ex-communistes, des trotskystes et des membres de la League for Socialist Action.

La déclaration de la Gendarmerie fut rendue publique par le Procureur Général Roy McMurtry en réponse aux questions de Stephen Lewis, à la suite d'un compte-rendu du *Globe and Mail* du 10 septembre 1977 qui dit: "Des sources d'information de la Gendarmerie Royale du Canada nous apprennent que l'enquête qui au début était limitée, a fait boule de neige et implique maintenant les principaux membres du parti."

L'ex-leader du NPD en Ontario, Stephen Lewis, à ce moment-là déclara que la Gendarmerie avait "perdu contact avec la réalité" en décidant que certains membres du parti participants du caucus Waffle constituaient une menace pour la sécurité du pays, au début des années 70.

Six jours plus tard, les accusations de la Gendarmerie étant devenues publiques, Ross Dowson, président et secrétaire général de la League for Socialist Action dans le temps, intenta un procès en diffamation contre la Gendarmerie et Sa Majesté la Reine au niveau du Fédéral. L'action en libelle dit que la déclaration de la Gendarmerie Royale, qui fut décrite par Roy McMurtry lui-même comme "vague," "ambiguë," dénie Ross Dowson et tous ceux qui dans son entourage partagent les mêmes idées, les rend vulnérable, sujets à des poursuites judiciaires sous deux articles du Code Criminel.

Alors que la poursuite revêt un caractère personnel, elle a pour but d'apporter une contribution concrète, substantielle, à des protestations contre les atteintes aux libertés civiles portées par la Gendarmerie Royale, protestations venant de la Canadian Association for Civil Liberties et de La Ligue des Droits de l'Homme. Ce procès a aussi pour but d'établir le droit d'entretenir des vues non conformes aux institutions établies et surtout d'établir le droit d'entretenir et de propager les conceptions marxistes et de les propager selon des méthodes légales.

Monsieur Harry Kopyto, avocat des libertés civiles nous a informés que la prochaine étape du procès, les examens préliminaires, peut dévoiler toute

une épisode d'espionnage de la Gendarmerie Royale sur le Nouveau Parti Démocratique et les syndicats.

Le Comité de Défense des Droits des Socialistes formé en vue de procurer l'appui financier et politique à ce procès a besoin de votre concours de deux manières: D'abord, en lisant les documents ci-inclus et, si vous êtes d'accord avec ce qu'elle contient, en signant la déclaration du Comité de Défense des Droits des Socialistes, ensuite en nous accordant une contribution financière. Il est très couteux de mener un procès et de faire échec à la Gendarmerie Royale en Cour. (Les transcriptions des examens préliminaires à elles seules coûtent \$2,500.00) C'est pourquoi les contributions en argent nous sont précieuses.

Tous ceux qui s'intéressent à cette action ou y contribuent d'une façon quelconque recevront des rapports réguliers sur le développement du procès.

Bien votre,

Christine Judge
Secrétaire administrative

DECLARATION DES OBJECTIFS DU COMITE
DE DEFENSE DES DROITS DES SOCIALISTES

Nous désirons indiquer notre appui, en tant que citoyens soucieux de protéger les droits civils, envers le procès intente par M. Ross Dowson, contre la Gendarmerie Royale du Canada. Nous comprenons que ce procès a pour but d'établir la légitimité et la légalité des vues socialistes contre les accusations de "subversion" portées par la Gendarmerie Royale.

Nous croyons que les individus ont le droit d'exprimer leurs vues sans avoir à faire face à des allegations non fondées et non méritées de subversion.

Nous croyons que l'accusation de subversion a servi et sert encore à justifier l'intervention dans les affaires internes et le harasnement d'organisations légales comme le Nouveau Parti Democratic et du mouvement ouvrier. Nous croyons aussi que ces activités menacent d'érosion le droit démocratique d'entretenir des opinions non conformes aux institutions établies au Canada.

Même si nous ne nous accordons pas nécessairement avec les idées politiques de monsieur Dowson, nous croyons que l'épreuve décisive d'une démocratie est sa capacité de tolérer et de respecter les individus dont les vues peuvent ne pas s'accorder avec celles de la majorité à une certaine conjoncture.



J'appuie la declaration ci-dessus.



Ci-joint, vous trouverez une contribution au fonds d'aide aux frais de Cour.

Retourner cette déclaration aussitôt que possible au Comité de Défense des Droits des Socialistes, 50 Thorncliffe Avenue, Toronto, Ontario, M4K 1V5.

SOCIALIST RIGHTS DEFENCE FUND STATEMENT OF PURPOSE

We wish to indicate our support as concerned civil libertarians for the suit initiated by Mr. Ross Dowson, against the Royal Canadian Mounted Police. We understand that the purpose of this suit is to establish the legitimacy and legality of socialist thought in face of charges of "subversion" by the RCMP.

We believe that individuals have the right to express their views free of unwarranted and unsubstantiated allegations of subversion.

We believe that the charge of subversion has been used and is being used to justify intervention in the internal affairs and the harassment of such legal organizations as the New Democratic Party and the organized labour movement and we further believe that such activities threaten to whittle away at the democratic right to dissent in Canada.

Though we may not necessarily agree with the political views of Mr. Dowson, we do believe that the real test of a democracy is its ability to tolerate and respect individuals whose views may not coincide with those of the majority at any given time.

I support the above statement.

Enclosed please find a contribution.

Signature

Return this statement

as soon as possible
to Socialist Rights Defence Fund
50 Thorncliffe Avenue Toronto Ont.
M4K 1W

from St George NDP June /78
NEWS NOTES (cont'd) Newsletter

WARD SIX HEATS UP

Jockeying has begun in earnest by aldermanic and trustee candidates in downtown Ward Six. Board of Education chairman Dan Leckie won't run for trustee again (but maybe for alderman) and alderman Dan Heap may not run municipally either. Numerous candidates will be seeking NDP nomination or endorsement as well as support from the Ward Six Community Organization. Fred Kan, well-known property-owner and supporter of Hong Kong investment interests in Chinatown, will likely be one pro-development candidate with semi-official Liberal backing.

ARE TROTSKYISTS SUBVERSIVE?

St. George NDP member Ross Dowson is suing the RCMP for slander for alleging that the former League for Socialist Action (Trottskyist communist) was subversive-tending to promote changes brought on by violent and undemocratic means. Dowson, a longtime Trotskyist activist and former LSA chairman, has organized a Socialist Rights Defence Fund to carry on the suit. The SRDF now includes prominent NDPers such as John Harney, Terry Meagher, etc. The case may well turn on evidence provided about RCMP spying on NDP activities during the Waffle period in the early 1970's.

Municipal report

By JOHN ARGUE

St. George NDP will elect representatives June 28th to municipal ward committees to prepare for the municipal elections to be held November 13th this year.

This election has witnessed a commitment on the part of the NDP -- in co-operation with the Labour Council of Metropolitan Toronto -- to contest actively as many municipal posts as is feasible.

So far initial meetings have been held on an ad-hoc basis discussing the principle of electoral competition as it affects the NDP in various wards and also discussing the names of potential candidates.

St. George NDP includes parts of City of Toronto wards 5, 6, 7 and 11. For each ward we will elect representatives to an interim steering committee. These committees will organize meetings, most likely to be held in the first two weeks of September, which will nominate/endorse candidates for the elections on November 13th.

A short meeting of the St. George municipal committee will be held to discuss the situation in each ward and prepare for the June 28th meeting.

The municipal committee will meet Wednesday, June 21st, at 6pm at 519 Church Street Committee Centre.

390 Bay Street, Suite 700,
Toronto, Ontario

Harry Kopyto, LL.B.

Barrister

Tel. (416) 862-7020

August 1, 1978

CASSELS, BROCK
Barristers & Solicitors
165 University Avenue
Toronto, Ontario
M5H 3C2

Attention: Pierre Genest, Q.C.

Dear Mr. Genest:

re: Dowson v. Her Majesty the Queen

Further to our recent telephone conversation, I now enclose the Demand for Particulars which I indicated I would serve you with in duplicate.

I would appreciate your admission of service on one of the copies and the return of it to my office. I also wish to confirm that the examination for discovery of a representative of the defendant has now been arranged for October 11th, 12th and 13th at the office of A. C. Devenport, Special Examiner, 305, 65 Queen Street West, Toronto, commencing at 10 o'clock in the morning on October 11th. I expect that you will be producing the Deputy Minister of Justice for purposes of the examination for discovery and if this is not the case, I would appreciate being advised as to who will be produced.

I also wish to advise you at this time that I will be amending my statement of claim so that Paragraph 3 will read as follows:

3. The Defendant, Her Majesty the Queen, at all relevant times, was acting through the Royal Canadian Mounted Police, a national Police Force duly established pursuant to the laws of the Dominion of Canada and through Federal government servants and officials including members of the Federal Cabinet whose identities are presently unknown to the Plaintiff.

As soon as I receive the Particulars requested, I will serve your office with the reply and the joinder of issue as well as notices to produce documents at the trial.

Yours very truly,

HK:cmm
Encl.

c.c. Ross Dowson

HARRY KOPYTO

New Democrat sues gov't over RCMP crimes

The Deputy Minister of Justice in Ottawa will be the main witness for the federal government in pre-trial hearings in a \$500,000 law suit against the Canadian government arising out of the controversy concerning allegations of RCMP wrongdoing.

The slander action was initiated last winter by Ross Dowson, the executive secretary of the League for Socialist Action (LSA), an organization declared to be "subversive" by the RCMP and named as a main reason for the RCMP's investigation of the NDP-Waffle in the early 1970s.

Dowson's counsel, Harry Kopyto, announced that, "While we still await final confirmation from government lawyers that the Deputy Minister of Justice will be produced for pre-trial hearings, information we have obtained has led us to conclude that this individual is most knowledgeable about the NDP-Waffle investigation by the RCMP."

Kopyto said the RCMP investigation was directed by "individuals at the ministerial and cabinet level", and that these individuals had full knowledge and control over RCMP activities within the NDP.

"We have already obtained independent confirmation that the defence of the suit is being conducted by politicians who appreciate that their pleas of ignorance concerning RCMP wrong-doings are likely to be contradicted as the full facts of the RCMP investigation come forth through pre-trial hearings."

The hearings are scheduled to commence Oct. 11.

In another development, four prominent US citizens have expressed support for the slander action of Dowson, who is currently vice-president of the Rosedale NDP constituency association in Toronto.

In a statement signed by pediatrician Dr. Benjamin Spock, Nobel prize winner Linus Pauling, well-known author Jessica Mitford, and M.I.T. linguistics professor Noam Chomsky, the four declared, "We believe that the charge of subversion has been used to justify intervention in the internal affairs and the harassment of such legal organizations as the New Democratic Party and the organized labour movement and we further believe that such activities threaten to whittle away at the democratic right to dissent in Canada."

In addition to international support, the suit has also won support from NDP Foreign Affairs critic Andrew Brewin and many other prominent Canadians including Cy Gonick, publisher

of *Canadian Dimension*, John Harney, a federal NDP candidate in Ontario, Grace Hartman, president of CUPE, author Margaret Lawrence and poet Al Purdy.

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JULY TO SEPTEMBER, 1978

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The Alberta Democrat

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For further information, contact Christine Judge, Administrative Secretary of the Socialist Rights Defence Fund, 50 Thorncliffe Avenue, Toronto M4K 1V5, telephone 466-1307 or Mr. Harry Kopyto, Mr. Dowson's counsel, 390 Bay Street, Suite 700, Toronto M5H 2Y2, telephone 862-7020.

(Sent on SRDF letterhead - ed.)

September 1, 1978

Michael Mason
Concordia University
History Dept
7141 Sherbrooke St., W
Montreal, H4B 1R6

Dear Michael Mason

The case is beginning to get a few media breaks though we haven't been able to supply any blood and gore. I am enclosing a Xerox copy of an item that appeared in the Alberta New Democrat

We are now moving into the examination for discovery in Mid-October. In the meantime we are trying to get publicity--we had a talk with the G & M specialist and the Toronto Clarion will be carrying an article next issue. We are also trying to raise the money so we can purchase the court record--so we are approaching various faculties. We think that it would be worth while testing the Concordia faculty with a mailing.

I would be a considerable saving if you could get the addressed envelopes into the university mailing system. We have been able to do this both at Scarborough College and Erindale-- We would stuff the envelopes and address them--send them to you via bulk mail which is much less than 14 cents, if you could put them into the Concordia mail system.

We would appreciate an early reply if this can be done.

sincerely

C. Judge

1455 de Maisonneuve Blvd. West
Montreal, Quebec H3G 1M8

7141 Sherbrooke Street West
Montreal, Quebec H4B 1R6

Michael Mason
Department of History
Tel.

concordia
university

September 7, 1978

C. Judge
Socialist Rights Defense League
50 Thorncliffe Ave.
Toronto, Ont. M4K 1V5

Dear C. Judge,

Your letter of 1 September 1978 is a little unclear. Am I right in assuming that what you want is to appeal to the Concordia faculty, through individually addressed letters, for support? If so please send the letters and I shall put them into the Concordia mail system.

Best wishes,

Michael Mason

MM/gch

SOCIALIST RIGHTS DEFENCE FUND

50 Thorncriff Ave.
Toronto M4K 1V5

CHRISTINE JUDGE, Administrative Secretary
HARRY PAIN, Pres. of St. David's NDP, Treasurer

September 15, 1978

FROM OUR GROWING NUMBER OF SUPPORTERS*

INTERNATIONAL:
Naom Chomsky, Jessica Mitford,
Linus Pauling, Benjamin Spock

CANADA
ROBERT ALBRITTON, professor of political science, York University

MARY BOYCE, lawyer ANDREW BREWIN, NDP-MP DOUGLAS CAMPBELL, actor CARL CUNEO, professor of sociology, McMaster University

KENNETH DANSON, lawyer CHANDLER DAVIS, professor of mathematics, University of Toronto

DR. D. DICKMAN, psychiatrist DR. JAMES J. ENDICOTT of *The Far East Newsletter*

SAM FOX, president of the Labour Council of Metro Toronto

EDGAR Z. FRIEDENBERG, professor of education, Dalhousie University

DANNY GOLDSTICK, professor of philosophy, University of Toronto

CY GONICK of *Canadian Dimension*

REV. DUKE T. GRAY of the Unitarian Congregation, Toronto

JON HARNEY, professor of Canadian Studies, Atkinson College, York University

GRACE HARTMAN, president of the Canadian Union of Public Employees

GREG KEALEY, professor of history, Dalhousie University

PAT KERWIN, director of political education, CLC

MARGARET LAURENCE, author D. W. LIVINGSTONE, professor of sociology, OISE

IAN LUMSDEN, professor of political science, York University

GEORGE MARTELL, author MICHAEL MASON, professor of history, Concordia University

TERRY MEAGHER, secretary treasurer, OFL G. J. & C. J. MC EWEN of *Affairs of the Moment*

MAX NEMNI, professeur de science politique, Laval B. D. PALMER, professor of history, Queen's

LEO PANICH, professor of political science, Carleton University

GLORIA PATTISON, Canadian district president IUE (AFL-CIO/CLC)

ELEANOR WRIGHT PELRINE, author

NORMAN PENNER, professor of political science, Glendon Campus, York

H. C. PENTLAND, professor of economics, University of Manitoba

AL PURDY, poet JAMES W. RINEHART, professor of sociology, University of Western Ontario

SATU REPO, author CHARLES ROACH, lawyer WAYNE ROBERTS of *Forward* ELLIOT ROSE, professor of history, University of Toronto

JOE ROSENBLATT, poet SIMON ROSENBLATT, professor of sociology, Laurentian University

JOE ROSENTHAL, artist CLAYTON C. RUBY, lawyer J. L. SKOBERG, NDP-MLA, Saskatchewan

DENIS SMITH of *The Canadian Forum* NEIL TUDDER, department of social work, University of Manitoba A. L. WERNICK, professor of sociology, Trent University

STEPHEN WILLIAMS of *Exile and Toronto Life*

*organizations listed for identification only

As the Federal government pursues its efforts to legitimize R.C.M.P. acts of law breaking on the basis of the need to combat "subversion", the full story of one of the more sensitive areas of R.C.M.P. operations still remains to be told.

Though federal cabinet ministers maintain a discreet silence concerning an R.C.M.P. campaign of infiltration and spying on the New Democratic Party during the early 1970s, independent confirmation already exists that this campaign was not the result of the actions of a few over-zealous R.C.M.P. officers but was in fact directed by the Privy Council Office. (*Globe and Mail*, June 5, 1978.)

While revealing as little as possible about these activities, the Ministry of Justice has not hesitated to proclaim its rationale for such spying far and wide: the existence of "subversive" elements within the NDP when a broad socialist current arose within the NDP known as the Waffle.

Ross Dowson, vice-president of the Rosedale NDP in Toronto and, at the time, the executive secretary of the League for Socialist Action, the only "subversive" organization specifically identified as the cause for R.C.M.P. concern with the Waffle-NDP, has launched a slander action against the Federal government in the Federal Court of Canada to clear himself and his co-thinkers of charges of advocating violence and undemocratic means of achieving social change (See article enclosed).

The purpose of the suit is to establish the legitimacy and the legality of socialist thought in face of charges of "subversion" by the R.C.M.P. and to defend the rights of individuals to express views which may not coincide with those of the majority at any given time free from unwarranted and unsubstantiated allegations of subversion.

The suit has now reached its middle stage with pre-trial hearings scheduled to commence on October 11th. It is expected that the Federal government will produce the Deputy Minister of Justice to answer the questions of Ross Dowson's counsel, civil rights lawyer, Harry Kopyto.

The suit has attracted support from Canadian leaders of the labour, civil liberties and academic communities as well as from international figures such as Dr. Benjamin Spock, Professor Noam Chomsky of M.I.T., Nobel Prize winner Linus Pauling and author Jessica Mitford.

Three Toronto lawyers, including a prominent feminist and a civil rights lawyer known for his work in the Black Community, have agreed to act as legal advisors to Ross Dowson's counsel in the suit.

The pre-trial hearings, commencing October 11th, are likely to reveal significant facts concerning illegal R.C.M.P. activities directed against the New Democratic Party. But the veil of secrecy which shrouds these activities will not be pierced without the funds needed to pay for pre-trial transcripts and for other legal costs.

The Socialist Rights Defence Fund has been formed to establish a financial basis for the prosecution of this action. We urgently need contributions from all Canadians concerned about the illegitimate and unlawful uses made of the R.C.M.P.

Please take the time to review the Socialist Rights Defence Fund Statement of Purpose enclosed with this letter. If it meets with your approval, we would appreciate any contribution you could make to defray legal costs.

Sincerely yours,

C. A. Judge

Christine Judge
Administrative Secretary of the
Socialist Rights Defence Fund

SOCIALIST RIGHTS DEFENCE FUND STATEMENT OF PURPOSE

We wish to indicate our support as concerned civil libertarians for the suit initiated by Mr. Ross Dowson, against the Royal Canadian Mounted Police. We understand that the purpose of this suit is to establish the legitimacy and legality of socialist thought in face of charges of "subversion" by the RCMP.

We believe that individuals have the right to express their views free of unwarranted and unsubstantiated allegations of subversion.

We believe that the charge of subversion has been used and is being used to justify intervention in the internal affairs and the harassment of such legal organizations as the New Democratic Party and the organized labour movement and we further believe that such activities threaten to whittle away at the democratic right to dissent in Canada.

Though we may not necessarily agree with the political views of Mr. Dowson, we do believe that the real test of a democracy is its ability to tolerate and respect individuals whose views may not coincide with those of the majority at any given time.

- You may add my name to the list of supporters.
- Enclosed please find a contribution to the Fund to help pay the legal costs.

Signature

Name (Please print or type)

Address

Return this statement as soon as possible to the Socialist Rights Defence Fund, 50 Thorncliffe Avenue, Toronto, Ontario M4K 1V5

PETITION ON RCMP WRONGDOING

Since the end of October 1977, there has been a wave of allegations and revelations concerning RCMP law breaking—burglary, theft, arson, mail opening, etc. Despite the gravity and quantity of the offenses involved (reportedly hundreds), as of May 1, 1978 not a single charge has been laid or disciplinary measure imposed.

While the McDonald Commission may well have a role to play, it must no longer be used as the excuse for delay and inaction. In the interests of both the reputation of the RCMP and the viability of the rule of law, the Canadian Civil Liberties Association and the signatories to this petition call upon the Federal Government immediately to invoke, as follows, the *normal* processes of law enforcement.

1. Initiate investigations, prosecutions, and disciplinary proceedings within its jurisdiction in such matters as mail openings and alleged RCMP misleading of Federal Cabinet Ministers.
 2. Transmit to the Provincial Attorneys General whatever evidence falls within their jurisdiction in such matters as break-ins, theft, arson, etc.

Each signature is accompanied by a contribution of at least one dollar to the CCLA Police Powers Petition Fund to counteract these and other excesses of police powers.

The above signatures were collected by

Name: _____

Address:

City:

Amount enclosed: \$

But this is a petition with a difference—it requires that each signature be accompanied by a donation of at least \$1.00 to a special CCLA Police Powers Postal Cadet Fund.

Postal Code:

Phone:

Signature:

T.C. Douglas MP
Director, CCLA

David Lewis
David Lewis, C.C., Q.C.
Director -

Mountie charges demanded

By Lolly Kaiser

October could be an explosive month for the federal government; groups and individuals are planning a united attack on the McDonald Commission, which is investigating police wrongdoing.

The RCMP has come increasingly under attack since the commission's revelations of such police offences as break-ins and mail openings. Both the Canadian Civil Liberties Association and the Québec *Ligue des Droits d l'Homme* plan to show their dissatisfaction with delays in convictions, and are planning demonstrations and petitions this fall.

The CCLA will present a petition containing more than 3,000 signatures to the com-



What may develop into the most significant protest yet against police repression involves a slander suit against the RCMP by a former member of the Trotskyist League for Socialist Action.

Ross Dowson, vice-president of the Rosedale NDP riding association and former executive secretary of the now defunct league, will be taking on the government in a preliminary hearing set for October 11 in Toronto. Dowson says he was slandered in a statement by the RCMP, which alleged it had investigated members of the NDP Waffle who were also members of the League for Socialist Action. The Mounties claimed the

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OR IT'S BACK TO
THE STABLES
FOR ME!!

October 1978 TORONTO clarion

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RCMP ADMITS TO FORGING FAKE FLQ CALL FOR VIOLENCE.

league was "subversive" and that it tended "to promote changes brought on by violent and undemocratic means."

Dowson, now a member of the social action group Forward and manager of Forward Books, says the hearing and the trial itself later in the new year will be especially revealing, since all investigations conducted by the RCMP into members of both the NDP and the Trotskyist league will surface. Dowson's counsel, civil rights lawyer Harry Kopyto, feels the government's case will be weak if it tries to link to the Waffle and alleged subversive groups all those members of the NDP who were investigated.

"We found out months ago that they were investigating members who had nothing to do with the Waffle," he says.

Kopyto states that the court will have to decide whether Trotskyism is subversive as an ideology and as the league practised it.

Surprised at the government's choice of a witness

K
t.
w
ve
rea
'
sei
wh
the

Nov 10/78

Harry + I both read the GM report Nov 10
Harry thought not important - I thought it was the
most important stat had yet come out of Macdonald
commission - How come such a difference in appreciation

R D's reasons

(facts) govt officials promoted operation Ham ~~to~~ anti PQ
other degts of the govt wanted to know whether
certain persons were members or sympathizers of PQ

proved that an army captain was
a member of the PQ a legal party
with clearly defined legitimate
aims

which proved after tremendous
investigation to have absolutely
no substance

wanted to know if any Mounties or other cops were members of
this party

a Sgt Banning testified that certain "friends of the revolution"
were in position of influence within various govt, labor + other
institutions - presumably these persons or these
institutions were screened - on what basis friends of
the RCM is a political police force of the states quo?

These persons it was feared might join (infiltrate) the PQ

The Security Service not sure that because "had the power
to keep the thing under control"

interference in internal affairs of PQ - took sides on
internal affairs of the PQ

Cabinet Cttee on security discussed "activities against the PQ"
+ did so until Trudeau said no
on what basis

These items seem to allow us to develop a strong
line of questioning for our case

as follows ① does the RCMP have a list of
friends of the revolution - ~~and~~ and has the USA a collective
of friends of the Revolution - ~~since it itself~~ since it itself
declares itself a friend of revolution - fundamentalists - on its
Is the RCMP a political police force committed to sustain the status
quo - + opposed to revolution. Does the RCMP have a

- Trace letter that McNurt wrote to Fox

What are we out to do

- 1.

find out established pattern of malice + dirty
tricks against the movement

Oppose nature

R C M P all committed

Political designed to preserve itself + its bosses
against humanity

we are with humanity

defend right resolutions
need + deserve should freedom
is socialist

desegregation — to offence

do not let them separate
from class struggle No

attack — meet NDP agst (also)

1+

RCMP — Banned ideas

violence — tend to violence —

Orthodoxy

NDP — has treated us as subversive
voted against us — expelled us

Opponent political party

never expelled as violent tended

— except Coldwell — 1969 —

Leaves on Waffle — not Trotsky

Brief of TU

Winnipeg Estevan to = CUPE

NDP
TU's

— USA

Common Soc legal in our cont

Saskatoon

should know to use this
should have known
could have done

here's our column
what ideas
we want to put down our
ideas

what facts do I have that RCMP
receiving information

facts that they were rather
ignoring

- ① Uninformed ③ personal knowledge
- ② belief personal RCMP

TU —

BC Woodworkers —
Quebec CIO —
Teamsters in Ton
Huf UAW

Vern Olson experience

IN ACCOUNT WITH

*Harry Kopyto, LL.B.,
Barrister*

121 Richmond St. West Suite 702, Toronto, Ontario M5H 2K4 Tel. (416) 864-9323

INTERIM DISBURSEMENT ACCOUNT

December 13, 1978

Ross Dowson
121 Church Street
Toronto, Ontario

RE: Dowson v. The Queen

Balance in trust account	\$ 34.14
Transferred to general account from trust account with reference to disbursements to date	<u>34.14</u>
Balance remaining in trust account	NIL

121 Richmond St. West, Suite 702,
Toronto, Ontario M5H 2K4

Harry Kopyto LL.B.

Barrister

Tel. (416) 864-9323

December 13, 1978

Mr. Ross Dowson
c/o Action Print
121 Church Street
Toronto, Ontario

Dear Sir:

RE: Dowson v. The Queen

Enclosed please find an interim account with
reference to disbursements in the above matter. I would
appreciate receiving a further retainer in the amount of
\$100.00 on account of disbursements anticipated and spent
at your earliest convenience.

Yours very truly,

HARRY KOPYTO

121 Richmond St. West, Suite 702,

Toronto, Ontario M5H 2K4

Harry Kopyto LL.B.

Barrister

Tel.(416) 864-9323

December 21, 1978

Mr. Ross Dowson
c/o Forward Group
121 Church Street
Toronto, Ontario

Dear Mr. Dowson:

RE: Dowson v. Her Majesty the Queen

I am writing to give you a progress report with reference to the above action.

As you know, we have now reached a stage in the proceedings of the court action where pleadings would normally have been completed and we would be in a position to move on to the second stage of the action, namely the Examinations for Discovery.

However, the defendant has not filed its List of Documents as it has been required to do and instead has served me with a draft of a Notice of Motion and an Affidavit which I understand will be made returnable, in its final form, on the 22nd of January, 1979, before a Federal Court Judge in Toronto.

In this Notice of Motion, the defendant, Her Majesty the Queen, is requesting an order dismissing our action on the basis that it is an abuse of the process of the court; alternatively an order to have their defence of absolute privilege determined prior to trial and in the further alternative, an order requiring the issue of absolute privilege to be determined prior to our Discovery of Mr. Sexsmith and production of their documents.

As indicated to you earlier, I have been informed by the solicitor for the defendant that the Federal government is concerned about releasing its files to us, something which would happen as a normal event in the process of Discovery and inspection of documents. This is further attested to by the Affidavit of Mr. Sexsmith, which, as you will note, argues that the documents in support of the defendant's case are secret and numerous and are of such a nature that it would require the personal permission of the Attorney-General of Canada in order to be released to us in the course of the trial.

I would advise you that in the event that any of the three orders requested by the defendant are granted by the Federal Court Judge, the effect of such an order would be to block production of these documents and Discovery of

Mr. Sexsmith in the event that the Court does determine that the defence of absolute privilege is a valid one in these circumstances.

In order for the Court to make a decision with reference to any of the three orders requested by the government, it is necessary for them to make such a decision on the basis of facts which are either agreed upon by counsel for both parties or pursuant to facts which the Court will determine through its own directives.

I have agreed with counsel for the government that the hearing of the request for these three orders be postponed until after I have had an opportunity to cross-examine Mr. Sexsmith on his Affidavit. Such cross-examination will be taking place in the month of January and the transcript of the cross-examination will be ready shortly thereafter.

As indicated to you verbally on numerous occasions, the essence of the defence of absolute privilege lies in the fact that an official communication between two Ministers of government is not subject to a civil action. In cross-examining Mr. Sexsmith, I will therefore be in a position to determine the entire circumstances surrounding the meeting when the alleged defamatory statement was made. I would further advise you that until such information is available to me, I cannot provide you with a definitive opinion as to the likelihood of success of the defence of absolute privilege. It may very well be that the circumstances which will be elicited as a result of the cross-examination of Mr. Sexsmith may reveal that under the guise of making an official communication, the RCMP in fact abused the occasion to avoid answering the question asked of them by Attorney-General Roy McMurtry and in order to hide the real facts necessary to answer that question. Should facts come to our attention through cross-examination that this in fact took place, I believe that we would then have an arguable case that the communication is not subject to the protection of the defence of absolute privilege.

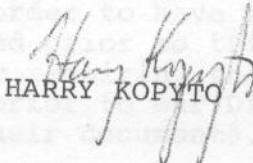
I would further advise you that upon the cross-examination aforementioned, we may well be in a position to obtain the same kind of information which the government wishes to avoid giving on the Examination for Discovery of Sexsmith.

Should the government refuse to answer the questions that I will be asking on the cross-examination of Mr. Sexsmith's Affidavit, we may well be into a serious legal contestation with reference to such questions which they refuse to answer. It would then appear to me appropriate at that time for us to seek an order requiring Sexsmith to provide this information.

I would advise you that I would be in a much better position to give you a fuller explanation of what our chances of success are with reference to the motion of the Federal Government after I have completed the cross-examination of Mr. Sexsmith and I would further advise you that at that time we will also be in a position to determine precisely how much or how little information the Federal Government is willing to give with respect to the circumstances surrounding the meeting where the alleged defamatory statements were made. Accordingly, I would suggest that we proceed in the manner outlined in this letter and that upon receiving the transcript of the cross-examination of Mr. Sexsmith, I would be in a position to once again report to you in a more precise fashion as to the likelihood of our success with reference to the motion launched by the Federal Government.

Furthermore, I would advise you that I am seeking instructions to move the Federal Court to force the Federal Government to comply with its own obligations of producing Mr. Sexsmith for Examination and to have the Federal Government to produce its List of Documents and the contents thereof since they are already in default with respect to this obligation on their part. I shall make this Motion returnable on January 22nd, 1979, so that the Court will be in a position to adjudicate on this issue and make an order requiring Sexsmith to attend for Examinations for Discovery and require the Federal Government to produce its List of Documents and Productions flowing from that List of Documents.

Yours very truly,


HARRY KOPYTO

(Sent on SRDF Letterhead - ed.)

(RWL - formation including former LSA - ed.)

December 23, 1978

Revolutionary Workers Party
Toronto

Dear Comrades;

We were very happy to receive your declaration of support and endorsement of our campaign, or effort, through the legal action by Ross Dowson "to establish the legitimacy and legality of socialist thought in face of charges of subversion by the RCMP."

We have sent you copies of all press releases that the Fund has issued to date. Right after this holiday season we will be issuing another one dealing substantially with where the case stands at this moment. We are looking forward to your press publishing the release and/or any other material that we have sent, in a coming issue of Socialist Voice.

We are pleased to receive the list of names of persons associated with your organization that could be listed as sponsors of the FUND. We have just published a new list in the form of the letterhead that this letter is written on. This list continues to grow and within a few months we will be bringing it up to date with your support registered. As perhaps you have noticed we have developed a formula which we would like to apply in your case. We notice that among your names is Judy Rebick who is currently listed as editor of Socialist Voice.

We would like to list Judy Rebick of Socialist Voice as a sponsor. We hope that this meets with your approval.

sincerely

Christine Judge

The slander suit initiated by Ross Dowson against the RCMP last year is only now moving towards the courts.

According to Dowson's lawyer Harry Kopyto he will be examining RCMP Commissioner M. Sexsmith on Feb 8. The latter was among those who prepared the response to the Ontario NDP house leader's enquiries as to RCMP surveillance of the NDP.

The Ont Attorney-general released a report that indicated that the RCMP did investigate the NDP during the period 1971 to 1973 justifying the investigation on the grounds that ex-Communists and Trotskyists, labelled "subversives" by the RCMP, had joined the NDP on the invitation of the Waffle. Dowson is challenging that the RCMP's labelling radicals as subversives is an attempt to declare a body of ideas illegal, to isolate those who hold them, and render the organizations they may be connected with suspect in the minds of the general public.

The Socialist Rights Defence Fund whose aim is to raise funds to conduct the case has won the support of widening forces including Linus Pauling, Benjamin Spock, Naomi Chomsky, writers Margaret Atwood, Margaret Lawrence, NDP Foreign Affairs critic Andrew Brewin, Ontario NDP President Jack Murray, OFL leader Terry Meagher and others.

Further information can be obtained from SRDF Administrative Secretary Chris Judge, 50 Thorncliffe Ave Toronto M4K 1V5

121 Richmond St. West, Suite 702,
Toronto, Ontario M5H 2K4

Harry Kopyto Ll. B.

Barrister

Tel.(416) 864-9323

February 1, 1979

Royal Commission of Inquiry
Into the Confidentiality
Of Health Records
180 Dundas Street, West
Twentieth Floor
Toronto, Ontario

Attn: Steven Sharpe

Dear Mr. Sharpe:

RE: Dowson v. Her Majesty the Queen

Further to our telephone conversation of January 30th, I enclose with this letter two copies of two exhibits in a slander action by Mr. Ross Dowson against the Royal Canadian Mounted Police in the Federal Court of Canada, action no. T-4816/77.

The slander action arose out of a statement released by the Ontario Attorney General's Department and containing a summary of information provided by the Royal Canadian Mounted Police regarding R.C.M.P. surveillance of the New Democratic Party in Ontario. My client, Mr. Ross Dowson, has reasonable and probable grounds to believe that these two statements along with others were prepared and circulated by the Royal Canadian Mounted Police in order to discredit members of an organization of which he was the leader of at the relevant time. I would further advise you that the exhibits contained with this letter and other information in the possession of my client might be of assistance in amplifying some evidence already heard by the Commission arising out of newspaper articles by Lawrence Martin with reference to R.C.M.P. harassment of radical organizations in Ontario in the early 1970s.

Mr. Dowson may be contacted at the following address: c/o Action Print, 121 Church Street, Toronto, Ontario, or he may be reached by phone between 11:00 a.m. and 5:30 p.m. at the following telephone number: 366-2059.

I understand that your investigative staff is likely to wish to arrange an interview with him shortly.

Yours very truly,

HARRY KOPYTO

HK:
Encl.
c.c. Ross Dowson.

SOCIALIST RIGHTS DEFENCE FUND

50 Thorncliffe Ave.
Toronto M4K 1V5

FROM OUR GROWING
NUMBER OF SUPPORTERS*



INTERNATIONAL:
Noam Chomsky, Jessica Mitford,
Linus Pauling, Benjamin Spock

CANADA

ROBERT ALBRITTON, professor
of political science,
York University

MARY BOYCE, lawyer

ANDREW BREWIN, NDP-MP

DOUGLAS CAMPBELL, actor

CARL CLUNIE, professor
of sociology,

McMaster University

KENNETH DANSON, lawyer

CHANDLER DAVIS, professor
of mathematics,

University of Toronto

DR. DICKMANN, psychiatrist

DR. JAMES J. ENDICOTT of

The Far East Newsletter

SAM FOX, president

of the Labour Council of

Metro Toronto

EDWARD Z. FRIEDEMERIC, professor
of education,

Dalhousie University

DANNY GOLDSTICK, professor
of philosophy,

University of Toronto

CY GONICK of

Canadian Dimension

REV. DUKE T. GRAY of

the Unitarian Congregation,

Toronto

JOHN HARNEY, professor of

Canadian Studies, Atkinson College,

York University

GRACE HARTMAN, president of

the Canadian Union of

Public Employees

GREG KEALY, professor of

history, Dalhousie University

PAT KERWIN, director

of political education, CLC

MARGARET LAURENCE, author

D. W. LIVINGSTONE, professor
of sociology, OISE

IAN LUMSDEN, professor

of political science,

York University

GEORGE MARTELL, author

MICHAEL MASON, professor
of history, Concordia University

TERRY MEAGHER,

secretary treasurer, OPL

G. J. & C. J. MC EWEN of

Affairs of the Moment

MAX NEMNI, professeur

de science politique, Laval

B. D. PALMER, professor

of history, Queen's

LEO PANICH, professor

of political science,

Carleton University

GLEN PATTINSON,

Canadian district president IUE

(AFL-CIO/CLC)

ELEANOR WRIGHT PELRINE,

author

NORMAN PENNER, professor

of English science,

Glendon Campus, York

H. C. PENTLAND, professor

of economics,

University of Manitoba

AL PURDY, poet

JAMES W. RINEHART, professor

of Western Ontario

SATU REPO, author

CHARLES ROACH, lawyer

WAYNE ROBERTS of *Forward*

ELLIOT ROSE, professor

of history,

University of Toronto

JOE ROSENBLATT, poet

SIMON ROSENBLUM, professor

of sociology,

Lethbridge University

JOE ROSENTHAL, artist

CLAYTON C. RUYK, lawyer

J. L. SKOBIRIG, NDP-MLA,

Saskatchewan

DENIS SMITH of

The Canadian Forum

NEIL TUDWELL,

department of social work,

University of Manitoba

A. L. WERNICK, professor

of sociology,

Trent University

STEPHEN WILLIAMS of

Exile and Toronto Life

*organizations listed for

identification only

CHRISTINE JUDGE, Administrative Secretary
HARRY PAINE, Pres. of St. David's NDP, Treasurer

This press release, turned over to the mass media on February 19, 1979 by the Socialist Rights Defense Fund, despite its importance and the eminence of the committee's supporters, was completely ignored by the mass media as have all other SRDF press releases. Thus, to the McDonald Commission's cover-up, we have a mass media black-out added as well.

The Krever Commission has been asked to require the RCMP to turn over the records of its agents involved in the harassment of the trade union and socialist movements by longtime Toronto socialist activist, Ross Dowson.

Dowson, who is suing the RCMP for half a million dollars for slander, has just given testimony to the counsel of the Royal Commission on Confidentiality of Health Records under Mr. Justice Horace Krever. He has turned over two letters which were surreptitiously circulated at the convention of the youth movement of the League for Socialist Action in December 1972 at which time Dowson was the latter's executive secretary. The letters revealed medical information designed to compromise a leading member of the organization and create unease in its ranks, which was in all probability stolen from the health records in the care of the Ontario government. The Krever Commission recently ended its investigation of a *Globe and Mail* reporter's article that claimed that the RCMP obtained such information illegally in its campaign of dirty tricks against radicals, when Justice Krever withdrew an order that the reporter appear before it to give evidence.

In a somewhat similar case in the United States involving FBI harassment of a socialist group, Judge T.P. Griesa of the Federal District court in Manhattan ordered the FBI to release the files on its unidentified informers who spied on the group. The Attorney-General of the United States of America is now in contempt of court for his refusal to do so.

Dowson's slander suit which was initiated over a year ago has been stalled from proceeding to the Examination for Discovery by the representatives of the Queen seeking a dismissal of the action. Over February 8 and 9, Dowson's lawyer Harry Kopyto cross-examined RCMP Commissioner Murray Sexsmith concerning the latter's contention that an RCMP statement was a protected official communication and not subject to court action. Kopyto argued that the RCMP abused the protection in order to avoid answering the question put to the solicitor-general by Ontario Attorney-General Roy McMurtry in response to inquiries by the NDP as to whether the RCMP had investigated that party. The solicitor-general's report claimed that the RCMP has not investigated the NDP "as such" but NDP members who were alleged to be LSAers and "ex-Communists" who it smeared as "subversives".

For further information, contact Christine Judge, administrative secretary of the Socialist Rights Defense Fund - 466-1307.

Ross Dowson
40 Homewood Ave., #2311
Toronto M4Y 2K2
961-4554 -evenings

work- 121 Church St.
366-2059
from 11 a.m. to 5:45

Access- CBC
6th floor, 790 Bay Street
Toronto

Feb 20/79

Attention : Miles White

Dear Mr. White

From some fleeting words following a program of a few days ago I gather Access is designed to give a break to some important stories that deserve it but havent for various reasons received it.

I think that my slander suit against the RCMP launched ~~ever~~ a year ago should be given such a break.

Could a case have a more eminent list of supporters????? I enclose a copy of the letterhead of the Socialist Rights Defence Committee that has been set up to further the case.

I enclose our latest press release which as usual with all our other press releases went out to the mass media but as usual, I fear, will be passed by. Of course a few small circulation journals have picked one or two releases up but they have pitifully small readership.

I sent two briefs to the McDonald Commission and appeared before its major Toronto hearing--their investigator came to see me--but they are silent. I have given evidence to the Krever Commission, etc etc.

I think your program is designed for such a case as mine and hope that you will contact me

sincerely

Ross Dowson

SOCIALIST RIGHTS DEFENCE FUND

50 Thorncliffe Ave.
Toronto M4K 1V5

FROM OUR GROWING
NUMBER OF SUPPORTERS*

OTTAWA 108

INTERNATIONAL:
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Linus Pauling, Benjamin Spock

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HARRY PAINE, Pres. of St. David's NDP, Treasurer

Sent to Supporters

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

March 19, 1979

+to SRDF general press list

The Attorney General of Ontario, the Honourable Roy McMurtry, has been asked to initiate legal action against the RCMP for its apparent violation of the Criminal Code of Canada. The request has been made by Harry Kopyto, lawyer for longtime Toronto socialist Ross Dowson whose initiatives resulted in the RCMP admitting last week before a Royal Commission hearing that it had violated the confidentiality of Ontario health records. The admission reversed previous RCMP assurances to the Krever Commission that it was not involved in any such violations as had been claimed by a Globe and Mail reporter and which led to the appointment of the commission. The RCMP admitted to utilizing this confidential information in order to fabricate letters which it caused to be surreptitiously circulated with the aim of intimidating and disrupting a socialist group in late 1972.

Mr. Dowson's lawyer suggested that it would appear that the RCMP violated sections 262 (defamatory libel) of the Criminal Code and urged "an investigation into the circumstances surrounding the distribution of the letters in order to determine if any other sections of the Code were violated: for example illegal wiretaps, acts of breaking and entering in order to distribute the letters etc...."

Last fall the Canadian Civil Liberties Association launched a nation-wide petition campaign to win support for its demand that the federal government prosecute members of the RCMP who have already been clearly exposed in the Keable and McDonald Commission hearings into RCMP wrong-doings as having violated civil rights by breaking the Post Office Act etc., and that Ottawa see to it that Criminal Code violations by the RCMP involving thefts, break-ins and arson are prosecuted. The civil liberties association campaign saw such prominent Canadians as Pierre Berton, June Callwood and Robert Fulford soliciting signatures at stands erected on downtown Toronto streetcorners.

The failure of the federal and provincial governments to take action has strengthened the widespread feeling that the McDonald Commission set up almost a year and a half ago with the declared purpose of investigating RCMP wrong-doings is in actual fact a cover-up operation. The information that Mr. Dowson brought to the attention of the Krever Commission had already been presented to the McDonald Commission over a year ago (Jan. 18, 1978).

In a statement to the press last month Mr. Dowson urged the Krever Commission to require the RCMP to turn over the records of its agents involved in the harassment of the trade union and socialist movements—a campaign which officials of the Saskatchewan Federation of Labour (CLC) have affirmed continues to this day. Only in this way can the full truth about the RCMP anti-civil rights campaign be ascertained.

Mr. Dowson's slander suit against the RCMP initiated over a year ago has been bogged down from proceeding to the Examination for Discovery by the representatives of the Queen seeking a dismissal of the action. Over February 8-9 Mr. Kopyto cross-examined RCMP Commissioner Sexsmith concerning the latter's contention that an RCMP statement was a protected official communication and not subject to court action. Kopyto argued that the RCMP abused the protection in order to avoid answering the question put to the solicitor-general by the Ontario attorney-general in response to the inquiries by the NDP as to whether the RCMP had investigated that party. The solicitor-general's report claimed that the RCMP has not investigated the NDP "as such", but NDP members who were alleged to be LSAers and "ex-Communists" who it smeared as "subversives". Mr. Dowson was the executive secretary of the League for Socialist Action (LSA) at the relevant times.

(Globe & Mail)
Mar 8 '79

RCMP used health records in bid to discredit socialist

Allegations that the Royal Canadian Mounted Police used confidential health information to discredit a senior member of a Trotskyite organization in 1972 are to be examined by the Royal Commission on Confidentiality of Health Records.

Socialist Ross Dowson and his lawyer, Harry Kopyto, have been asked to attend a hearing tomorrow that the commission counsel, Harvey Strosberg, said yesterday will concern "a matter dealing with the RCMP."

Last month, Mr. Dowson and the Socialist Rights Defence Fund asked the royal commission to investigate suspicions that the RCMP was behind circulation of two letters at a convention of the youth movement of the now-defunct League for Socialist Action. Mr. Dowson was the league's executive secretary.

Mr. Kopyto said then that the letters revealed medical information "designed to compromise a leading member of the organization and to create unease in its ranks." He suggested that the information had come from health records in the possession of the Ontario Government.

A *Globe and Mail* article in 1977 alleged that in the early 1970s the RCMP "gained unauthorized access to highly confidential medical files and leaked sensitive information from them in an attempt to disrupt radical groups."

In a letter to the commissioner, the article's author, Lawrence Martin, said a paragraph mentioning OHIP as a source of information was not meant to apply to information used for disruptive tactics.

Reached at his Richmond Street law office after yesterday's commission hearings, Mr. Kopyto said he had just been in touch with Mr. Strosberg "and Mr. Dowson and I will be there Friday."

Mr. Kopyto went to the royal commission after he encountered difficulty in proceeding with a slander action by Mr. Dowson against the RCMP.

The suit alleged that the

Mounties had slandered Mr. Dowson and co-thinkers by implying they were subversives in a report tabled in the Ontario Legislature.

The report, tabled by Attorney-General Roy McMurtry, confirmed that some radical members of the Ontario New Democratic Party were investigated by the RCMP in the early 1970s. It said the investigation was launched because subversive groups had penetrated the NDP through its Waffle movement in order to gain respectability, credibility and influence.

The report had gone on to say that when the Waffle invited non-NDP members to join its ranks the invitation was accepted by ex-members of the Communist Party of Canada and members of Canadian Trotskyite movements.

Leaders of the League for Socialist Action in fact directed their members to join the Waffle.

Now 61, Mr. Dowson was several times a Toronto mayoralty candidate and was a leading member of the league from its inception in 1962 until its dissolution in 1974. The group was an amalgamation of various Trotskyite organizations in Canada.

At yesterday's commission hearing, representatives of boards of health and school boards told of problems they were having in the use of student health information.

The witnesses for boards in Toronto, North York and Scarborough all acknowledged that traditionally health information obtained by public health nurses who

work in the schools has been shared with school authorities.

The practice was questioned when Toronto's medical officer of health, Dr. George Moss, was told by the College of Physicians and Surgeons of Ontario that the information-sharing was contrary to the Health Disciplines Act.

Witnesses from the Toronto and North York boards said that in recent months sharing has been restricted to "minor" health problems such as short-sightedness and poor hearing unless approval is obtained from the students' parents.

However, Dr. Keith Fitzgerald, Scarborough's MOH, testified that the borough had taken a different course, choosing to continue the sharing while obtaining as many parental consents as possible.

Clippings

RCMP distributed private OHIP data to disrupt extremists

By LAWRENCE MARTIN

The RCMP gained unauthorized access to highly confidential medical files and leaked sensitive information from them in an attempt to disrupt radical groups in the early 1970s, according to sources close to the operations.

Information on who had been treated for mental illness, on who was sexually deviant, on who had emotional problems, or any information that might humiliate people in target areas was obtained on a regular basis from hospitals or provincial health schemes, the sources said.

Frequently, the health records were obtained from paid informants who had access to them. In other cases, the Mounties, predominantly those in the security service, were permitted direct access to the files by employees sympathetic to their cause.

The tactic was common in the domestic war on subversives or those deemed to be potentially subversive in the wake of the 1970 October Crisis in Quebec.

Once obtained, the information usually was leaked through an informant in the target group in the hope that it would cause dissension. If the group hadn't been penetrated by the Mounties, the information was mailed or given through anonymous phone calls.

One tactic that often caused

a lot of friction was falsely labelling a group member an RCMP informant. The innocent victim sometimes would take a physical pounding as a result and paranoia would set in among group members.

The new left, black and Indian radical groups, right-wing extremists and extremist political parties were the groups against which the tactics most often were applied.

Among the Mounties' prime sources of medical files was the Ontario Health Insurance Plan offices in Toronto, the sources said. The Ontario Health Ministry recently called in security experts after learning that its confidential medical tapes are not safe from the Government's own computer operators.

Ministry of Health officials said they were not aware of any RCMP attempts to gain access to OHIP files.

David Bernstein, a lawyer of the ministry, said he doesn't know of any provisions in acts governing OHIP that would allow access to the files.

One RCMP source said that in many cases the medical information never was used. He said security service members had to earn their pay somehow and sometimes the gathering of such information was a good way to fill the time.

He said the information never was used against innocent citizens, but he allowed that the traditionally right-wing Mounties' definition of a potential subversive might

differ widely from the interpretation of many other citizens.

The work was done mainly by members of D operations, which in security service talk is counter-subversion. Some special operation groups in D operations were set up to neutralize threats to national security.

For security purposes, the names change often, but at one point there was also in D operations a group called key sectors. Key sectors concentrated on areas such as: education — subversives within colleges, universities and teachers' federations; the media — subversives within press, radio and television, mainly union people; and political parties — the Communist Party of Canada and extremists within even the more legitimate parties like the New Democratic Party.

The source said an investigation of dozens of federal and provincial NDP members emerged from a genuine belief among many members of the force that the party was subversive. The investigation produced information on party frictions, finances and plans that was all forwarded to RCMP headquarters in Ottawa. But sources are not sure if the information went from headquarters to the federal Government.

RCMP sent 'Dear Comrade' letter

Second class mail registration number 131

to radical's wife

By John Munch Toronto Star

The Royal Canadian Mounted Police wrote and mailed an anonymous letter to the wife of a Toronto left-wing activist living in Paris, a royal commission heard today.

Superintendent Ian Taylor said the operation was authorized by senior RCMP officers who gave the go-ahead for the letter to be mailed in Nov., 1972, to Mrs. John Riddell.

Mrs. Riddell, wife of John Riddell, a leader of a now defunct Trotskyite group, The League for Socialist Action, said today the letter told her her husband was

under a "great deal of stress" and said "you are needed at home."

She told the Royal Commission on Confidentiality of Health Records she was in Paris when the anonymous letter was mailed to her while her husband had returned home from a visit in Europe.

Taylor said he presumed the intent of the letter was to persuade Mrs. Riddell to go back to Canada to be with her husband.

Mrs. Riddell said the intent of the letter was "that I was definitely supposed to go home to him and second that John was having some emotional problems."

She later passed the letter to a friend. It

was subsequently lost. But in an entry she made in her diary on Nov. 18, 1972, Mrs. Riddell said: "Got my first poison pen letter unsigned tonight. Think I know who and why. They've certainly directed their venom at the wrong target — the bastards."

The letter was addressed, Dear comrade, and ended with the words, a friend.

Mrs. Riddell said the letter was handwritten.

Asked who she thought had sent the letter, Mrs. Riddell said: "I didn't know. I was assuming it was some level of police.

"It upset me. It could upset anybody. It

didn't upset me more than anybody else because I thought I knew who had sent it. It wasn't a friend."

She said she had never received another letter like this one. But, when she returned to Ontario from Paris, she received two anonymous telephone calls in the spring of 1973 while her husband was out of the country.

"It was a very low man's voice," she said. "He spoke about my husband. I was very startled. It indicated that he needed me, but other than that I can't remember what was said."

Taylor, the head of an RCMP security

service task force dealing with commissions of inquiry, said one of his officers spoke with the author of the false letter but no copy of the original remained at RCMP headquarters.

"I would presume it was on a file that was destroyed," he said. Taylor denied that any of the information in the letter contained lies about the Riddells. "It contained general information on the physical and mental well-being of Mr. Riddell and suggested it would be desirable for Mrs. Riddell to return to Canada."

Further research into RCMP records showed there was no knowledge among

officers of anonymous telephone calls having been made to Mrs. Riddell at any time, Taylor told the commission.

Asked whether the RCMP had used medical information in other disruptive operations of this kind, Taylor said: "I have no knowledge of this having been done in any other instance."

In testimony earlier this month, Taylor told the commission the RCMP wrote and distributed two unsigned letters claiming that John Riddell had psychiatric problems and casting doubts on his ability to be a leader of a left-wing political group.

The hearing continues.

COMRADE:

(1)

Dec/72

YS/LGS convention

Jarvis Collegiate

Chair of delegates placed there
~~fallen~~ in lunch hour
when doors locked

We have been most disturbed lately by indications of increasing emotional instability on your part, witnessed by psychiatric consultations, violent outbursts of temper and frequent periods of irritability. We note too from the enclosed letter that your condition has not escaped the notice of others. It is unfortunate that the author of the letter didn't see fit to forward it so that by now you could have taken steps to correct the situation.

No doubt the numerous responsibilities which have fallen upon your shoulders at this critical time in our history have played a large role in the development of your condition. While a certain amount of nervous strain is natural, and perhaps unavoidable, we do not feel that your recent behaviour is consistent with one who is capable of maintaining a responsible, sound leadership over our movement.

However, in consideration of your record of devoted service on our behalf, and in the best interest of the movement as a whole, we encourage you to lay bare the truth about your condition before the membership at the forthcoming YS Convention. An honest and open confession would do much to restore confidence in your sincerity and sense of responsibility. Should you fail to take this opportunity however, then in fairness you must be warned that we would consider it our duty to inform all comrades of the situation, an act which would not be extremely palatable to either party concerned.

Mr Stroberg

Following will withdraw order that GM register
return to give evidence

Kremer Commission Lawyer
made a statement to press (GM)

"I can only conclude that the obtaining
of medical info by the RCMP by the use of
paid informants + its use for disruptive
purposes either in Ontario or elsewhere
just did not take place"

Riddell

Rec'd 10/8/72

This is Exhibit I mentioned and
referred to in the affidavit of
ROSS DOWSON

Swear before me this 5th day of
September A.D. 1979

Commissioner, &c

COMRADES:

(2)

In recent months, it has become apparent to many that John Riddell is suffering from extreme emotional anxiety and instability. If the above statement is shocking, and incredible in your eyes, then we call to your attention numerous incidents involving violent and irrational outbursts of temper, and prolonged periods of depression and irritability which have marked comrade Riddell's behaviour throughout the past few weeks. Looking on all those close to him with deep suspicion, he accuses them of deserting him, and of attempting to undermine his authority. Such behaviour becomes even more frightening when considering that in the past he has been forced to seek psychiatric aid as a solution to this problem.

At this point in our history, when we are threatened by the divisive forces of the Tendency, and criticized on all sides by the agents of opportunism and reaction, it is more important than ever that we have as our leader a man capable of remaining calm in the face of stress and pressure. And yet comrade Riddell displays an inability to cope with the responsibilities of leadership; instead as each day goes by he becomes more and more irrational. In our opinion his character of late is not consistent with our ideals of leadership, and we fear for the future of our movement.

At this point it should be noted that we approached comrade Riddell and asked him to make a full and open confession of his condition to everyone at this convention. This he refused to do, thereby illustrating both a desperate desire to cling to power at all costs, and a basic dishonesty in his dealings with all of us. The seriousness of this problem is too great to be ignored, comrades. What we have described is not rumour, but fact, and based on this must be your decision to consider very carefully our choice of leaders, in the greater interests of our movement, and all we are hoping to achieve.

**"LOYALTY TO THE INTERNATIONAL MEANS ABOVE ALL
IN PRACTICE LOYALTY TO ITS CANADIAN SECTION"**

Comrade, the above statement was made in 1971 by John Riddell. His words imply that our loyalty to the Fourth International is secondary to our allegiance to our national movement, a very firm and decisive gesture on his part. And yet, for one so demonstrably dedicated to our cause in the past, certain of comrade Riddell's more recent actions raise questions in the minds of the writers as to the true direction in which his sympathies lie. We make no accusations, but simply express our curiosity and concern over these actions, hoping that we will elicit a satisfactory response. We consider it incumbent upon all of us to demand frank and honest answers to these very serious questions, so that we may truly know the man who will determine our future in the days ahead.

Comrade Riddell, as our representative to the United Secretariat, could you please explain your conspicuous silence, during a time when we and our American comrades have been bitterly assailed on all sides by the majority of the International, including members of the United Secretariat itself, over the issues surrounding the rash and adventuristic acts of the Latin American comrades?

Why did you stand by and allow this criticism to encourage the divisive and reactionary activities of the Tendency, activities which no doubt played a large role in prompting comrade Dowson, a man who had devoted his entire life to the movement, to resign?

What are your true views on the question of armed struggle in revolutionary doctrine, bearing in mind the obvious implications of your silence on this issue?

Why have you neglected to make these views known to us and to those ultra-leftists who would destroy everything which we have attempted to build over the years?

Did you play a hand in an alleged invitation to prominent members of the United Secretariat to attend our National Convention?

What purpose would their presence serve? Perhaps you hope it would be interpreted as a sign of international solidarity on your behalf in order to buttress your position.

How would you reconcile the support of this group, which has actively criticized us and encouraged dissent in our ranks, with the true interests of the Canadian section?

121 Richmond St. West, Suite 702,

Toronto, Ontario M5H 2K4

Harry Kopyto LL.B.

Barrister

Tel.(416) 864-9323

April 4, 1979

Commission of Inquiry
Concerning certain activities of the
Royal Canadian Mounted Police
P.O. Box 1982
Station "B"
Ottawa, Ontario
K1P 5R5

Attn: Yvon Tarte, Esq.
Commission Counsel

Dear Sir:

H. Kopyto
RE: Dowson v. Her Majesty the Queen

I wish to inform you that testimony before the Royal Commission of Inquiry into the Confidentiality of Health Records in Ontario given on the 9th, 27th, and 28th days of March, 1979, contained admissions by the Royal Canadian Mounted Police through Superintendent I.W. Taylor that the R.C.M.P. had committed illegal acts contrary to Section 324 and 330 of the Criminal Code of Canada.

With respect to the first section referred to above, the R.C.M.P. admitted making a false document knowing it to be false with intent that it should be used or acted upon as genuine to the prejudice of anyone.

With respect to Section 330 of the Criminal Code, the Royal Canadian Mounted Police admitted that they intended to convey by letter information that they knew was false with intention to injure or alarm the victim.

The victims of these criminal acts of forgery and communicating false statements were my clients Mr. and Mrs. John Riddell, who at the relevant time were members of the League for Socialist Action, an organization which supported the New Democratic Party.

+ see Cbo
It would seem to me advisable, as I understand that you will shortly be questioning Mr. Jean-Pierre Goyer and Warren Allmand, the Solicitors-General at the relevant time, to inquire of them as to whether any acts of breaking and entering were committed into King Edward Public School on Lippincott Street, where some of these false statements were communicated at a convention of the Young Socialists. I would advise you that this is one of the matters which remains unresolved as of yet and Mr. Justice Krever specifically requested an indication from the R.C.M.P. on the

28th day of March with respect to how they obtained entrance into the school in order to distribute the false documents.

I would also advise you that it would be most pertinent to my clients and to others concerned whether and how the Young Socialists and their associated organization, The League for Socialist Action, happened to fall within the mandate of those organizations against whom disruptive tactics were authorized. I would respectfully suggest that it may be useful to inquire who it was that determined that these organizations were subject to such actions as well, in light of the fact that it would appear to myself and to numerous other individuals that neither of these organizations could be described as representing illegitimate or illegal dissent in any way shape or form.

Further to our telephone conversation today, I am forwarding to you under separate cover copies of the transcripts of the "Krever" Commission hearings taken on March 9, 1979, in order to assist you with respect to the cross-examination of relevant witnesses before the MacDonald Commission.

Should you require any further information please do not hesitate to contact me. -

Yours very truly,

HARRY KOPYTO

HK:cmm



Commissioner
The Hon. Mr. Justice Horace Krever
Counsel
Harvey T. Strosberg
Executive Secretary
Jack R. Cooper

Royal Commission of Inquiry
into the
Confidentiality of Health Records
in Ontario

180 Dundas Street West
22nd Floor
Toronto Ontario
M5G 1Z8
416/965-4003

April 6, 1979

Mr. Ross Dowson
c/o Action Print
121 Church Street
Toronto, Ontario

Dear Mr. Dowson:

The Commission will hear Counsel and all interested persons who wish to sum up and make submissions commencing on Tuesday, April 17, 1979. Please note that I am referring to submissions with respect to the evidence heard during the investigative hearings which have been continuing since April, 1978. I am not now inviting submissions relating to policy or recommendations which the Commissioner may be asked to make about changes in legislation. An opportunity for submissions of this nature will be afforded at a later date if requested by you.

Out of an abundance of caution this letter is being sent to all witnesses who appeared and gave evidence, all counsel who appeared and all persons who were given notice. It may well be that many persons will not avail themselves of this opportunity as many counsel have indicated that they do not intend to sum up or make submissions.

It is necessary, for scheduling purposes, to know whether you wish to do so.

Would you please advise the Commission, in writing, by completing and returning the enclosed form before Thursday, the 12th day of April 1979, if you wish to sum up or make submissions.

If I do not hear from you, in writing, by Thursday, April 12, 1979, I will assume that you DO NOT wish to avail yourself to this opportunity.

Yours very truly,

Harvey T. Strosberg
HARVEY T. STROSEBERG,
Counsel to the Commission.

121 Richmond St. West, Suite 702,
Toronto, Ontario M5H 2K4

Harry Kopyto LL.B.

Barrister

Tel.(416) 864-9323

April 12, 1979

Commission of Inquiry
Concerning certain activities of the
Royal Canadian Mounted Police
P.O. Box 1982
Station "B"
Ottawa, Ontario
K1P 5R5

Attn: Yvon Tarte, Esq.
Commission Counsel

Dear Sir:

RE: Dowson v. Her Majesty
the Queen

I wish to inform you that in addition to the letters referred to in my letter dated April 6, 1979, to you circulated by the Royal Canadian Mounted Police in the League for Socialist Action in Toronto, other letters were circulated in Montreal branch of the Ligue Socialiste Ouvriere (the sister organization of the Legue for Socialist Action in Quebec), in the summer and fall of 1962 in the French language designed to disrupt activities of the Ligue Socialiste Ouvriere at the time.

I enclose copies of the two letters which have been given to me by my client Mr. Dowson, and which were entered as exhibits in a list of documents filed in his slander action against the Royal Canadian Mounted Police in the month of February 1979.

I would further advise you that I have now received information that at least some of the information used in these new disruptive letters were obtained as a result of a RCMP infiltrator operating in the Montreal branch of the LSO for a period of approximately one year.

I understand further that the following constitute pertinent and relevant circumstances concerning the obtaining of the information and this informant:

1. The informant, to whom I will refer to as Mr. X, was approached by the Royal Canadian Mounted Police and asked to infiltrate the Ligue Socialiste Ouvriere on the basis that it was a subversive organization and under the threat that if he refused to infiltrate the organization, the Royal Canadian Mounted Police would reveal to his employer the fact that Mr. X was a homosexual;

2. Under this threat of blackmail, Mr. X infiltrated the Montreal branch of the Ligue Socialiste Ouvriere in the early 1970's and prepared monthly written reports for the security service of the Royal Canadian Mounted Police and also attended at the security service headquarters in Ottawa to give reports on the activities of the LSO;
3. As a result of familiarizing himself with the methods, ideas and goals of the LSO, Mr. X became convinced that the organization was not unlawful or illegal in any way and that it was simply a voluntary association of individuals exercising their democratic rights to promote the idea of socialism within Quebec. Accordingly, Mr. X. refused to perform his duties for the RCMP and informed the organizer of the LSO that he had become convinced of the correctness of the ideas of socialism and revealed his role as an RCMP undercover agent within the organization.

It is my understanding that the informant wishes to maintain his identity a matter of confidence and accordingly, I would advise you that if you feel these facts fall within your mandate and are pertinent to the questioning of the Solicitors-General responsible for the administration of the RCMF at the relevant time, I would be happy, on behalf of Mr. Dowson, to provide you with the name and address of the informant and also with the name and address of the organizer of the LSO at the time to whom the informant made his confession.

I would appreciate your response to this letter.

Yours very truly,

HARRY KOPYTO

HK:cmm

121 Richmond St. West, Suite 702,
Toronto, Ontario M5H 2K4

Harry Kopyto LL.B.

Barrister

Tel.(416) 864-9323

April 19, 1979

The Honourable Roy McMurtry
Attorney General for the
Province of Ontario
18 King Street, East
Toronto, Ontario

Dear Sir:

Further to my letters to you of March 15th and March 27th, 1979, I would appreciate receiving a response to my requests that your department undertake prosecution of the relevant officials of the Royal Canadian Mounted Police responsible for breaking Sections 324 and 330 of the Criminal Code of Canada with respect to my clients, John Riddell, Mrs. John Riddell and Ross Dowson.

In my experience as a criminal practitioner in this province, I have learned to admire the speedy and expeditious manner in which your department apprehends and prosecutes those responsible for committing even minor and technical infractions of relatively insignificant sections of the Criminal Code, sometimes on evidence which appears to me to be even insubstantial. I am therefore at a loss to understand why your department has not yet undertaken the prosecution of those who have committed these infractions against my clients and who have openly admitted so doing. In this respect, I refer you to pages 44 and 47 of the transcript of the hearings before the Royal Commission of Inquiry into the Confidentiality of Health Records in Ontario before The Honourable Mr. Justice H. Krever, Commissioner, heard on March 27th, 1979 at 10:00 a.m. in the City of Toronto. The full transcript, should you require it, can be made available to you immediately by my office.

I look forward to an early response from you as you are the person who is responsible in the final analysis for ensuring that the administration of justice in the Province of Ontario is carried on in an even-handed manner and is applied as expeditiously and speedily against anyone responsible for violating the Criminal Code, whether or not they happen to be members of a federal police force.

Your letter dated April 4th, informing me that you are seeking advise from senior counsel, perplexes me somewhat since the two pages referred to above contain explicit

- 2 -

admissions of the violations of S. 324 and S. 330 of the Criminal Code of Canada sufficient to immediately lay informations and issue process.

Yours very truly,

121 Richmond St. West, Suite 702,
Toronto, Ontario M5H 2K4

Harry Kopyto LL.B.

Barrister

Tel.(416) 864-9323

April 19, 1979

Mr. Bilodeau
Counsel for the Keable Commission
2055 Peel Street
Suite 600
Montreal, Quebec

Dear Sir:

RE: Dowson v. Her Majesty
The Queen

Further to my recent attendance at your office with respect to evidence obtained from the Krever Commission concerning the circulation of letters by the RCMP within the League for Socialist Action/Ligue Socialiste Ouvrière, you will recall requesting at the time that I forward to you the key pages from the transcript of the Royal Commission of Inquiry into the Confidentiality of Health Records in Ontario with respect to the RCMP admitting they were responsible for circulating such letters within Ontario.

Accordingly, I enclose pages 1 to 3 of the hearing before the Royal Commission of March 9th in which the RCMP accepts responsibility for two of the three letters which I have given you and I also enclose pages 61 and 62 of the hearings of the Royal Commission held on the 27th day of March, 1979, in which the RCMP admits authoring the third letter in English which I have given you.

For your further information, I also enclose a copy of page 44 and 47 of the transcript of the 27th of March hearing in which the RCMP admits they violated Sections 324 and 330 of the Criminal Code of Canada.

I sincerely hope that you will be able to ascertain whether the two letters in French which I have given you have been authored and circulated by the Royal Canadian Mounted Police and if so, I would advise you that my client, Ross Dowson, would be most eager to testify as a recipient of these two letters should you require his presence.

Yours very truly,

HK:cmm

Encl.

c.c. Ross Dowson

HARRY KOPYTO

Phone call with Harry Stone April 24/79 at Glen Hill Inn
Harry is coming to Toronto June 22/79 Cornerbrook

After Harry had left the movement & with his wife returned to his hometown St. John's NFU, a former friend of his who he knew was in the RCMP ~~and was ⁱⁿ there~~ and is probably still in the RCMP

a Lloyd Rideout - probably a sgt & stationed now in Ottawa - got involved in a friendly old times sake conversation with him

Rideout told him that he knew about Harry having been in the USA - that he was no longer in. He knew that he had been living with Jeane Henderson and that he was acquainted with the fact that Harry was close to Ross Dawson and John Reddell. ~~He also stated that Harry was~~ He affirmed to Harry that they had an agent in the organization. He boasted of ~~his knowledge of Harry and George Bryant~~ had made a trip to NY to pick up printing equipment from the SWP, that they had an accident with the van etc. This info could have come from ~~the agent or~~ from the FBI

Harry remembers that he expressed the RCMP's concern with the Hardail Barnes group in Montreal - that they didn't feel that they had them sized up as they felt about us. Harry sensed that he may actually have been stationed in Toronto in the 1972 period

— Harry was wondering why the RCMP did not stonewall our letters - why they admitted authorship

we should wonder too. I suggested there was an increasing breakdown with no one knowing who knows what & might tell all

Should we call this person on the stand

— Is it the Official Secrets Act that is being used by the RCMP to prevent the disclosure of the source - alleged to be non-medical

— Is it a Supreme Courts' ruling on the Keays commission that is being used to prevent the ever from inquiring into the RCMP's general operations?

121 Richmond St. West, Suite 702,

Toronto, Ontario M5H 2K4

Harry Kopyto LL.B.

Barrister

Tel.(416) 864-9323

May 18, 1979

Harvey Strosberg
Counsel to the Commission
Royal Commission of Inquiry
into the Confidentiality of
Health Records in Ontario
180 Dundas St. West
22nd Floor
Toronto, Ontario
M5G 1Z8

Dear Sir:

RE: Dowson v. Her Majesty
the Queen

I wish to advise you that I am still awaiting your reply to my letter to you dated May 14th with respect to the method which the RCMP used to enter into King Edward Public School. I cannot understand your reluctance to convey this information to me even though it is in your possession and I would respectfully request that it be conveyed forthwith.

I also wish to congratulate you and the Canadian Civil Liberties Association with respect to the Appeal involving the Commission, The Canadian Civil Liberties Association and the RCMP involving the names of individuals who violated medical regulations, etc. It would appear to me that this decision would now also have some direct implications with respect to the areas explored as a result of the exhibits produced by my client, Mr. Dowson. As you will recall, the questioning of the RCMP at various times was highly truncated due to the uncertainty of the legality of some of the questions because of the Appeal that had been taken and that had not been completed at that time.

Accordingly, please inform me when and if you intend to reopen for further taking of evidence those areas which were not pursued because of the legal uncertainty of the questions during the cross-examination of the RCMP arising out of the exhibits aforementioned.

I would also ask you when a date will be set for submissions on policy as I have been informed that the RCMP requested a postponement of the original date set for such hearings.

Yours very truly,



Ontario

Commissioner
The Hon. Mr. Justice Horace Krever
Counsel
Harvey T. Strosberg
Executive Secretary
Jack R. Cooper

Royal Commission of Inquiry
into the
Confidentiality of Health Records
in Ontario

180 Dundas Street West
22nd Floor
Toronto Ontario
M5G 1Z8
416/965-4003

May 23, 1979.

Mr. Harry Kopyto,
Barrister, Solicitor,
Suite 702, 121 Richmond Street West,
Toronto, Ontario.
M5H 2K4

Dear Mr. Kopyto:

RE: Dowson.

I have your letter of May 18, 1979.

I have still not received formal confirmation from the RCMP as to the manner in which the RCMP entered the King Edward Public School. My present information is that the RCMP entered the school, spoke with the janitor and requested permission from the janitor to distribute material. The janitor gave his consent and the members of the RCMP entered the gymnasium and placed the material on the chairs that were set up therein. On receipt of formal confirmation from the RCMP I will provide you with any further or different information.

The appeal period has not as yet expired but I suspect the RCMP and the Solicitor General will be seeking leave to appeal to the Supreme Court of Canada. For that reason I have not, as yet, scheduled any further hearings.

The submissions on policy for the RCMP, Civil Liberties Association, and yourself are now scheduled for June 11, 1979, at 10:00 a. m.

Yours very truly,

Harvey T. Strosberg

HARVEY T. STROSBERG,
Commission Counsel.

121 Richmond St. West, Suite 702,

Toronto, Ontario M5H 2K4

Harry Kopyto LL.B.

Barrister

Tel.(416) 864-9323

May 25, 1979

Toronto Board of Education
Plant Operations
155 College Street
Toronto, Ontario

Attn: Superintendent Rose

Dear Sir:

Pursuant to a telephone conversations with Mr. Al Brown of your division today, I am writing you to request the names of the janitors who worked at King Edward Public School in December 1972.

I would appreciate receiving this information as soon as possible as it is of vital importance to a current court action.

Yours very truly,



HARRY KOPYTO

SOCIALIST RIGHTS DEFENCE FUND

50 Thorncliffe Ave.
Toronto M4K 1V5

CHRISTINE JUDGE, Administrative Secretary
HARRY PAINE, Pres. of St. David's NDP, Treasurer

June 15, 1979

For Immediate Release

FROM OUR GROWING NUMBER OF SUPPORTERS*

INTERNATIONAL:
Naom Chomsky, Jessica Mitford,
Linus Pauling, Benjamin Spock

CANADA
ROBERT ALBRITTON, professor
of political science,
York University

MARY BOYCE, lawyer
ANDREW BREWIN, NDP-MP

DOUGLAS CAMPBELL, actor
CARL CUNEO, professor
of sociology,
McMaster University

KENNETH DANSON, lawyer
CHANDLER DAVIS, professor
of mathematics,
University of Toronto

DR. B. DICCKMAN, psychiatrist
DR. JAMES J. ENDICOTT of
The Far Left Newsletter

SAM FOX, president
of the Labour Council of
Metro Toronto

EDGAR Z. FRIEDBERG,
professor of education,
Dalhousie University

DANNY GOLDSTICK, professor
of philosophy,
University of Toronto

CY GONICK of
Canadian Dimension

REV. DUKE T. GRAY of
the Unitarian Congregation,
Toronto

JOHN HARNEY, professor of
Canadian Studies, Atkinson College,
York University

GRACE HARTMAN, president of
the Canadian Union of
Public Employees

GREG KEELEY, professor of
history, Dalhousie University

PAT KERWIN, director
of political education, CLC

MARGARET LAURENCE, author
D. W. LIVINGSTONE, professor
of sociology, OISE

IAN LUMSDEN, professor
of political science,
York University

GEORGE MARTELL, author
MICHAEL MASON, professor
of history, Concordia University

TERRY MEAGHER,
secretary treasurer, OFL

G. J. & C. J. McEWEN of
Affairs of the Moment

MAX NEMNI, professeur
de science politique, Laval

B. D. PALMER, professor
of history, Queen's

LEO PANICH, professor
of political science,
Carleton University

GLEN PATTISON,
Canadian district president IUE
(AFL-CIO/CLC)

ELEANOR WRIGHT PELRINE,
author

NORMAN PENNER, professor
of political science,
Glendon Campus, York

H. C. PENTLAND, professor
of economics,
University of Manitoba

AL PURDY, poet

JAMES W. RINEHART, professor
of sociology, University of
Western Ontario

SATU REPO, author

CHARLES ROACH, lawyer
WAYNE ROBERTS of *Forward*

ELLIOT ROSE, professor
of history,
University of Toronto

JOE ROSENBLATT, poet

SIMON ROSENBLUM, professor
of sociology,
Loyola University

JOE ROTSTEIN, artist

CLAYTON C. RUBY, lawyer
J. L. SKOBERG, NDP-MLA,
Saskatchewan

DENIS SMITH of
The Canadian Forum

NEIL TUDIVER,
department of social work,
University of Manitoba

A. L. WERNICK, professor
of sociology,
Trent University

STEPHEN WILLIAMS of
Exile and Toronto Life

Ross Dowson whose previous presentations to the Ontario Royal Commission of Inquiry into the Confidentiality of Health Information resulted in the sensational admission by the RCMP that it had used facts gained through the violation of the confidentiality of health information in a campaign of dirty tricks against the now defunct League for Socialist Action when Dowson was its leading personality, made a policy submission today to the Krever Commission.

His submission of 4 1/2 pages of double-typed copy was made at the same time as a massive five volumes of material was presented by the RCMP

Highlighting Dowson's submission was a recommendation that Commissioner Krever should urge the Ontario Attorney General's office "to immediately lay criminal charges against the RCMP for its violation of the Criminal Code, specifically sections 324 and 330 in respect to its use of the information that it obtained in violation of the confidentiality of health information" and that he should also urge consideration of a proposition that Dowson had earlier raised to the McDonald Inquiry over a year ago and has now been raised in the new publication THE RCMP vs THE PEOPLE by Toronto professors Edward Mann and John Lee---the abolition of the RCMP. Dowson stated that "its very existence is in violation of the BNA Act" as J.S. Woodsworth, founder of the CCF-NDP pointed out years ago, "and it is in effect a para-military conspiratorial political police institution that is inimicable to the democratic aspirations of the Canadian people."

for further information phone 366-3190

121 Richmond St. West, Suite 702,

Toronto, Ontario M5H 2K4

Harry Kopyto LL.B.

Barrister

Tel.(416) 864-9323

June 18, 1979

COPELAND, LISS
Barristers, Solicitors
31 Prince Arthur Ave.
Toronto, Ontario
M5R 1B2

Attention: Paul Copeland

Dear Sir:

RE: Dowson v. Her Majesty the Queen

Following our conversation last week, I wish to thank you for assisting me in anyway you deem advisable in attempting to obtain the prosecution of the Royal Canadian Mounted Police for acts of forgery and communicating false messages contrary to Sections 324 and 330 of the Criminal Code of Canada.

I enclose copies of two of the forgeries of the RCMP which they circulated at a convention of the Young Socialists in December 1972.

I also enclose copies of correspondence with the Attorney-General's Office with respect to trying to get them to move on this matter.

Since speaking to you last time, Michael Cassidy has indicated that the NDP might raise this matter in the House or exert some pressure on the Attorney-General's Department to respond. I am sending him the same information but I do not think that should stop us from doing what we can.

Finally, I am reviewing all the circumstances of the case in order to determine where I require assistance most. Do you think that it might be possible to meet with the relevant Law Union sub-committee in the near future to report on the progress of the case and to canvass views with respect to various matters?

Sincerely,

HK:CMM
Encl.

HARRY KOPYTO

c.c. Ross Dowson

Dictated but
not read.

121 Richmond St. West, Suite 702,
Toronto, Ontario M5H 2K4

Harry Kopyto LL.B.

Barrister

Tel.(416) 864-9323

June 18, 1979

Michael Cassidy
Leader of Ontario New Democratic Party
Queens Park
North Wing
Room 222
Legislative Bldg.
Toronto, Ontario

Dear Sir:

Further to my conversation with you at the Provincial Council Meeting of the Ontario Party on June 16th, I now enclose correspondence with the Attorney-General's Office in an effort to get them to lay charges against the RCMP for openly violating Section 324 of the Criminal Code of Canada (forgery) and Section 330 of the Code (communicating false messages).

I also enclose relevant pages from hearings of the Royal Commission of Inquiry into the Confidentiality of Health Records in Ontario wherein the RCMP literally admit that they have broken the laws in respect of both of these sections of the Criminal Code.

I would ask that the party either raise this matter in the House or find some other way of obtaining a positive response from the Attorney-General's Department. In this respect, please keep me informed of what your intentions are.

Yours very truly,

HK:cmm
Encl.

HARRY KOPYTO

c.c. Ross Dowson
David Warner, MPP

Dictated but
not read.

Appared before B of E June 26 / 79

Made an intro speech

re RCMP violation of Criminal Code
+ their circulation of the material into school - p

women astonished & took on advisor - who said I was the meeting not Pat Case (chair) - public information not private - advisor strongly supported B of E solicitor + his refusal to give Harry King info - I spoke sharply against him - pretend that he was a member of B of E - + then challenged the board with their responsible

- (1) defend the sanctity of the school + citizens use of school without RCMP harassment
- (2) ~~protect~~ protect privacy of the caretaker staff -
another much ado about the ^{little} ~~little~~ aspect of the matter
give me the name - they are do just opposite of what I claim

Bob Spencer came unprepared - I proposed motion ① that the B of E provide Mr. Dawson with the documents to get the names of the caretakers ② at the Board check out its responsibility re the RCMP's violation of the Petty Treasures Act general support + unease

Advisor cut in - characterized as I no nothing there - and suggested that B of E inform the janitorial staff that Mr. Dawson would like to speak to them - this was agreed upon happily + adopted by all.

I protested how well I know they have been informed + how would they be informed in such a manner as would encourage them to contact me - I was assured by all they will do so after.

Bob ran around by back way messenger interested and we can set it all suggesting George C BC interviewed me - asked if I was satisfied - I said no - second shot at record - ~~rehearsed~~ I did I expressed dissatisfaction that Board did no pass motion to check out RCMP violation of civil rights of the YS in convention

told Harry

RCMP +

King Edward Public School

Criminal Code + the

Petty Trespass Act

any person
whether or not a degree
of guilt for an offense
any person who enters

can be fined not

less than \$10 nor
more \$100

B.C. lawyer
wouldn't give us info
doesn't want ~~to take sides~~ - but did RCMP has
taken sides already RCMP violated
Provincial Statute

Section 1

If B.C. doesn't act the
federal sides against me

①

defend the fed
much ado

②

allow them to
act in my name

We must make available
P. selector

Right of access
to documents
and information

pol

M

Right of access
to documents
and information

According to 6th article June 25/
by Robert Sheppard 79

"In Canada ~~the govt~~ in particular
absolute privilege of Court is formally
enshrined in the Federal Court Act
of 1969"

121 Richmond St. West, Suite 702,
Toronto, Ontario M5H 2K4

Harry Kopyto LL.B.

Barrister

Tel.(416) 864-9323

June 27, 1979

Canadian Civil Liberties Association
229 Yonge Street
Ste. 403
Toronto, Ontario
M5B 1N9

Attn: Alan Borovoy, Counsel

Dear Sir:

RE: Dowson v. Her Majesty the Queen

Further to the annual meeting of the Canadian Civil Liberties Association held on June 19th, and the motion to refer requesting that the Attorney-General of Ontario prosecute the RCMP officers involved in committing illegal acts as revealed before the Krever Commission, I now enclose for your attention my correspondence with the Attorney-General's office with respect to this matter as well as portions of the relevant transcripts.

Should the Board of Governors require further information, please do not hesitate to contact me. I would also request that you inform me as to what decision the Board of Governors makes with respect to the referred motion and if any correspondence arises out of it, I would appreciate receiving a copy of such correspondence.

Yours very truly,

HK:CMM

Encl.

HARRY KOPYTO

c.c. Ross Dowson

Dictated but not read.



with the
compliments of

David Warner, M.P.P.
Scarborough-Ellesmere
New Democratic Party

Room 229, North Wing
Legislative Buildings
Toronto, Ontario
M7A 1A2
(416) 965-7110

Constituency Office
2250 Midland Avenue
No. 15A
Scarborough
(416) 292-8795

Room 221A, North Wing
Legislative Building
Queen's Park
Toronto, Ontario
M7A 1A2

July 25, 1979.

Honourable Roy McMurtry
Attorney General
18th Floor
18 King Street, East
Toronto, Ontario

Dear Roy:

I have received a letter from Mr. Harry Kopyto, LL.B., 121 Richmond Street, West, #702, regarding the laying of charges against the R.C.M.P.

I would appreciate being informed of your response to Mr. Kopyto and generally being kept up to date on this situation *as it* appears to relate to the Inquiry into the Confidentiality of Health Records in Ontario.

Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Yours truly

David Warner MPP
Scarborough-Ellesmere
965-7110

per L.P.

DW/lp
opeiu:343
copy to: Mr. Harry Kopyto.

1979

? what she
has all - to
do with it?



YORK
UNIVERSITY

AUG 14 1979

OSGOODE HALL LAW SCHOOL

4700 KEELE STREET, DOWNSVIEW, ONTARIO M3J 2R5

August 9, 1979

The Honourable Roy McMurtry,
Attorney General for the Province of
Ontario,
18 King Street East,
Toronto, Ontario.

Dear Mr. McMurtry:

I have in hand a letter sent to you by Mr. Harry Kopyto, Barrister, on August 7th urging you to set the ordinary criminal processes underway with respect to admitted RCMP crimes.

I want only to say that I endorse this letter wholeheartedly, not only with respect to those crimes admitted to before the Krever Commission but also those admitted to before the McDonald Inquiry where they fall within your jurisdiction.

It is not often that one is able to get free legal advice from so eminent a criminal counsel as Mr. Edward Greenspan, so I have enclosed for your information a transcript of a talk given by him while on a panel at the St. Lawrence Centre March 7th last. As you know, a portion of this transcript was published in The Globe and Mail, Friday, June 22nd. However, I thought that the complete transcript might be of interest to you in considering Mr. Kopyto's letter.

Yours truly,

Michael Mandel,
Associate Professor.

MM:bc
Encl.

cc: Mr. H. Kopyto ✓ for prosecution. I'm equally dismayed at the provincial Attorney General for not going to the McDonald Inquiry and taking

when he came to the question on the citizenship test where it said "Do you advocate the overthrow of the government of Canada by force or violence?" And the person thought for a while and said "Well, I guess I'd have to choose violence". [Laughter]. Thank you very much. [Applause].

PROFESSOR GREGORY BAUM: Thank you very much, Mr. Brown. I have many students of theology who tell me that there is a class conflict in society. They claim that the government is really on the side of the owning classes. If these students had been in this room, they would have found arguments for their position in Mr. Brown's paper.

Now I would ask Mr. Edward Greenspan to address us.

MR. EDWARD GREENSPAN: Well, it's clear that our first two speakers are going to be followed out of here tonight by RCMP officers. I don't know whether I am going to fall into that category because I don't represent any particular group here tonight. I'm not associated with any particular political party. But I'm very interested in what I read about the McDonald Commission Inquiry, as a citizen and as a lawyer who is engaged in criminal law practice, and how the McDonald Inquiry, in my view, has undermined public respect for law by not handing over to the various Attorney-General's Departments in the provinces the evidence of illegality that has come forth, for prosecution. I'm equally dismayed at the provincial Attorneys-General for not going to the McDonald Inquiry and taking that evidence and prosecuting.

Prosecution of RCMP officers who have engaged in illegal activities is long overdue. I can't imagine anyone suggesting that police officers

should be subject to any other rule of law than the private citizens of this country are subject to. And they should be prosecuted for their misdeeds as any private citizen is. The incredible delay in the prosecutions is, as I say, seriously undermining respect for the law in the public's eyes.

To give you an example, the Attorney General of Ontario watches a hockey game on television and before the instant replay is put on television, the hockey player is charged with assault. The Attorney General does not wait for President John Ziegler to hold a hearing, to have an investigation to determine whether or not this was an assault. The charge is laid. With respect to the people that I have acted for, it's amazing how soon after the police have some evidence, and in some cases no evidence -- in most cases, no evidence [Laughter] -- how quickly they charge my clients with an act of crime and make them go to court and answer the charge. It's not an unusual thing; it's a normal thing.

The Krever Commission has heard many and various acts of illegality and a variety of people who have come before the Krever Commission have already undergone discipline hearings. The Commission is not over. That is a Commission that is one-twentieth the size of the McDonald Inquiry and, so far, has uncovered twenty times the evidence that the McDonald Inquiry has. And surely reasonable people are entitled to ask what is happening with the McDonald Inquiry?

Do they intend to wait to find out what acts have been committed? We have already heard the police engaged in about 419 break-ins since 1970, arson and various other acts like theft of explosives. If I had a client that admitted 419 break and entries, he'd be arrested before he finished the admission [Laughter]. But the McDonald Commission says "Let's wait". For what?

If they intend to wait until the end of the inquiry and the government makes all the crimes that the police committed legal, then I can tell you I have a number of clients charged with break-and-enter who will be delighted at the prospect of discovering that break-and-enter has always been legal. It has been a crime since 1867 --every day since 1867-- and to my knowledge it is still a crime. And if the police officers have committed break-and-entry, they ought to go to court, they ought to stand their trial, plead not guilty, have a trial and if they are guilty, be convicted. But the thought of waiting for whatever the day will be that Mr. Justice McDonald will conclude this inquiry is an appalling thought. The evidence is there.

Justice McDonald said "One of the difficulties is that all these officers are giving their evidence under the Canada Evidence Act and that's going to make it very difficult to prosecute because that evidence cannot be used against them except in perjury charges". He forgets that, if there are four people that committed a break-and-enter, if they are charged separately, each and every one of them can be called against each and every one of them, as is done every day in our criminal courts. And

when he goes on to say that many of the Mounted Police officers contend they acted under orders from superiors and that that may be a matter for his Inquiry to consider, he's forgetting something called the "Nuremberg Defence" which proved to be very unsuccessful, (ie. they were "just following orders").

The law in this country is as clear as any law that we have. Mr. Justice Laskin once said in a case, which is the only case we have in this country to act on, and it is the law -- he said that "the recognition of 'public duty' to excuse breach of the criminal law by policemen would involve a drastic departure from constitutional precepts that do not recognize official immunity unless statute so prescribes. Legal immunity from prosecution for breaches of the law by the very persons charged with the public duty of enforcement would subvert that public duty. The matter is, in my view, more grave in relation to the criminal law than it is in any consideration of immunity from civil liability where policemen may incur it while in the discharge of their public duty."

That's the law. It's not a question for Mr. Justice McDonald to tell us what Mr. Justice Laskin, now the Chief Justice of this country, has told us. And the thought that they are simply postponing prosecution for a purely political purpose is not sufficient. I think that we should all work towards encouraging the provincial Attorneys General to go to McDonald, take that evidence and prosecute the officers. If they are innocent, the courts will find them innocent. If they are guilty, they should be dealt with, like the hockey player, like someone charged with welfare fraud and like all the shoplifters that get charged within min-

utes of the time that they are alleged to have committed the crime.

Thank you. [Applause].

PROFESSOR GREGORY BAUM: Thank you very much, Mr. Greenspan. I now ask Dr. Michael Oliver to speak to us.

DR. MICHAEL OLIVER: Someone has said that the freedom we actually enjoy is the ability to choose between tea or coffee on a plane in an uncontrolled dive where the stewardess may have run out of coffee. I don't often feel that cynical about the degree of political efficacy that we enjoy. In fact, I think that we can at least choose the kinds of risks that we want to take. I doubt very much that in this kind of a world we can choose to live a life without risks. But we can, surely, try to make a decision as to where we want to be protected from risks and where we feel that setti

For immediate release

October 4, 1979

Ross Dowson appealed to the McDonald Inquiry to call him before it as it opened investigations into what is known as "Operation Checkmate." "As I did when testifying before the Krever Inquiry I will waive protection of the Evidence Act," he said.

While Dowson stated that the hearings should not be closed but right out in the open he expressed his willingness to testify no matter the conditions so that the truth can start to be unravelled.

Dowson has been a leading activist in the Canadian labor and socialist movement since the mid-Thirties and was executive secretary of the now defunct League for Socialist Action from its founding in 1961 until 1972 when he became its chairman until he resigned in 1974 to join the Forward Group in the NDP. What Dowson claims to have been a massive campaign of RCMP dirty tricks against the League is certain to be a major element in revelations about "Operation Checkmate."

It was his bringing some letters to the attention of the Krever Commission this spring that led the RCMP to confess that it had forged them and had them distributed to harass the LSA youth movement which was a major component of the youth radicalization in the Sixties. The insistence of Harry Kopyto as his lawyer that the RCMP be charged with violating the Criminal Code resulted in the Ontario Provincial Police's current investigation of the RCMP.

Contrary to impressions that the RCMP has created before all four inquiries that its "dirty tricks" have ceased Mr. Dowson will submit evidence that they are still going on as shown in a raid in Sault Ste Marie on April 9 of this year in collusion with U.S. state officials.

On the basis of statements made in response to inquiries by the Ontario NDP leader as to RCMP investigations of the NDP Mr. Dowson has launched a half a million dollar slander suit against the RCMP. The RCMP admitted to investigating the NDP but not as such ,rather "ex-Communists" and LSAers in the NDP who it labelled "subversives." This too should figure prominently in any serious investigation of "operation Checkmate."

-30-

for further information
961-4554
366-2059

121 Richmond St. West, Suite 702,

Toronto, Ontario M5H 2K4

Harry Kopyto LL.B.

Barrister

Tel.(416) 864-9323

October 24, 1979

Allan Lawrence
Solicitor General of Canada
Parliament Buildings
Ottawa, Canada

Dear Sir:

I acknowledge receipt of your office's letter dated October 11th, 1979, with respect to my request that the Royal Canadian Mounted Police cooperate with the Ontario Provincial Police in respect to their investigation of certain questionable activities conducted by and under the auspices of the RCMP against members of the now defunct League for Socialist Action and Young Socialist organizations in Toronto in the early 1970s. These activities include acts of forgery, uttering and circulating false messages as elaborated by Superintendent W.I. Taylor of the RCMP before the Ontario Commission into the Confidentiality of Health Records this spring.

I fail to understand why there would be any delay in having the RCMP cooperate with the Ontario Provincial Police in their investigation. The uncovering of criminal activities and the bringing of violators of laws to swift justice is a principle which I am sure you are as dedicated to as the Attorney-General of Ontario, Roy McMurtry, who has appointed the Ontario Provincial Police investigation. It would appear to me that it would be consistent with your responsibilities to forthwith assist in the detection and prosecution of violators of the law without giving the matter any deliberation or consideration at all. Any delay whatever in cooperating with the Ontario Provincial Police tends to suggest that some violators of the criminal law are being treated more leniently and are being prosecuted less swiftly than others.

As the actions of the RCMP are a matter of public record and sworn testimony, it would appear that a swift response by you would be especially desirable.

The victim of any further delay in this matter would not be my clients but the fair and impartial administration of justice, to which we are all committed. Accordingly, I would hope that you would give this matter your most urgent attention and take such actions as are necessary to establish that all violators of the law are going to continue to be treated equally.

Yours very truly,

HK:cmm

HARRY KOPYTO

c.c. Prof. Michael Mandel
Ross Dowson
David Warner, NDP, MPP
Paul Copeland, Barrister

121 Richmond St. West, Suite 702,
Toronto, Ontario M5H 2K4

Harry Kopyto LL.B.

Barrister

Tel.(416) 864-9323

November 8, 1979

Allan Lawrence
Solicitor General of Canada
Parliaments Buildings
Ottawa, Canada

Dear Sir:

I was very heartened to read the report in the Globe & Mail on November 8, 1979 that your interpretation of the responsibilities of the Royal Canadian Mounted Police does not include permitting them to commit illegal acts or acts violating provincial or federal regulations.

In this connection, it would appear to me that in order to be consistent, you would at the very least have to ask the Royal Canadian Mounted Police to provide the Ontario Provincial Police with the information which they require including the names of all RCMP agents who committed criminal acts of uttering, forgery and circulating false messages.

The fact that the RCMP has admitted through Superintendent Taylor before the Ontario Commission of Inquiry into the Confidentiality of Health Records to having committed these acts is another circumstance which calls for rapid action in this respect.

As it has been several weeks since I first initiated my correspondence with you with respect to this matter and brought these facts to your attention, I expect an answer to this inquiry as soon as possible.

Yours very truly,

HK:cmm

HARRY KOPYTO

c.c. Attorney General for Ontario,
Roy McMurtry
Prof. Michael Mandel
Ross Dowson V
David Warner, NDP, MPP
Paul Copeland, Barrister

121 Richmond St. West, Suite 702,
Toronto, Ontario M5H 2K4

Harry Kopyto LL.B.

Barrister

Tel.(416) 864-9323

November 15, 1979

Mr. Svent Robinson MP
Parliament Buildings
Ottawa, Canada

Dear Sir:

RE: Royal Canadian Mounted Police

Further to our telephone conversation of the 9th of this month, I enclose three items of correspondence recently forwarded to Allen Lawrence with respect to an Ontario Provincial Police investigation by the Criminal Investigation Branch under the direction of Detective-Inspector L.J. Pelissero into the activities of the Royal Canadian Mounted Police in circulating forged letters in Toronto under circumstances admitted to before the Ontario Commission of Inquiry into the Confidentiality of Health Records.

I also enclose relevant pages from the Krever Commission hearings this spring where the RCMP literally admitted to violating the Criminal Code of Canada, and which admissions form the basic reason for the OPP investigation.

As indicated, you may deem it appropriate to ask the Honourable Mr. Lawrence whether he has been co-operating with the Ontario Provincial Police in their investigation and in determining the names of the people who authored the forged letters, and if he has not, why he has not.

In addition to enclosing copies of forged letters which the RCMP admitted to authoring, I also enclose letters in French that were circulated through the League for Socialist Action and its French homologue, the Ligue Socialiste Ouvrière, in August 1972. A copy of the letter "Aux Camarades" came to Mr. Ross Dowson, the executive secretary of the League for Socialist Action, to his home on September 26, 1972.

As these letters generally take the same form and tone as the English letters, my clients have reasonable grounds to believe that these letters, too, were written by the Royal Canadian Mounted Police, for the purpose of creating dissension in the French and English wings of the organization at that time.

As indicated to you in the telephone conversation, numerous incidents have been brought to the attention of the MacDonald Commission with respect to various acts of harassment against members of the League for Socialist Action in the 1960s and 1970s without any indication of action being taken.

Should you require any further information with respect to these matters, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Yours very truly,

HARRY KOPYTO

HK:cmm

Encl.

c.c. Ross Dowson

WHEREAS the past several years have revealed that the Royal Canadian Mounted Police through its security service operations has carried on a policy of systematically harassing, frustrating, destabilizing and disrupting the activities of completely legitimate dissident and protest organizations including provincial federations of labour such as the Saskatchewan Federation of Labour, interfering in various activities including the presidential elections within the Canadian Union of Public Employees, internal affairs of the B.C. and Ontario New Democratic Parties; and

WHEREAS it is a matter of public record that officials of the Royal Canadian Mounted Police have violated a wide variety of criminal code sections including those dealing with arson, break and enter, forgery, public mischief and assault; and

WHEREAS Canada remains unique within the Commonwealth countries in retaining sections within its Official Secrets Act and Federal Court Act which effectively gives the government the right to withhold from judicial and public scrutiny almost any document of its choosing under the excuse of "national security" considerations,

1. THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the new Democratic Party call for all operations of the security service of the RCMP which harass legal dissident organizations, the labour movement, the New Democratic Party and other political parties to be terminated immediately and that the full truth about such past harassment be made public,

2. BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the New Democratic Party call for the immediate prosecution of all members of the Royal Canadian Mounted Police who are alleged to have violated criminal law and that if their illegal actions are found to have been authorized by Solicitors-General that the rule of law apply and that such Solicitors-General not be considered immune from such prosecution,

3. BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Federal Court Act be amended to remove the government's right to withhold government documents from judicial scrutiny solely on the basis of an affidavit filed by the government,

4. BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Official Secrets Act be amended so that the right to public trial is affirmed and so that miscarriages of justice, such as that exemplified in the prosecution of Peter Treu, will no longer be possible.

5. BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the party encourage support for a variety of efforts directed towards establishing the legitimacy of dissident, socialist and Marxist thought, including the efforts of Professor Andre Gunder Frank to obtain full travelling rights within Canada and the legal suit of Ross Dowson for slander against RCMP allegations that he and other Waffle supporters and members were subversive,

6. BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the New Democratic Party support the implementation of a real Freedom of Information Act which includes the right of independent appeal, places the onus for proving why documents should not be released upon the government agency wishing secrecy, and provides very narrow and clearly defined exemptions,

7. BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that locally elected Police Review Commissions be established and that these committees have the power to investigate complaints against the RCMP.

Resolution on Justice

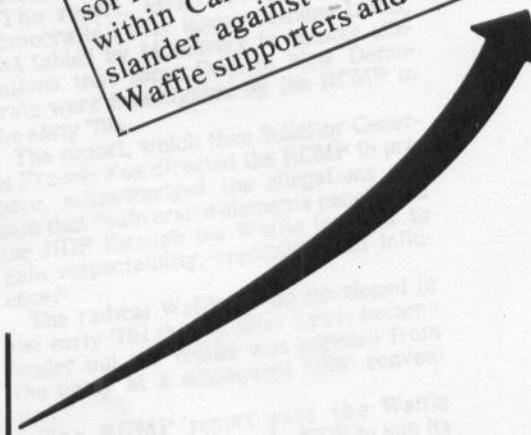
as adopted by the assembled delegates at the

New Democratic Party

Tenth Federal Convention

Toronto November 22-25, 1979

5. BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the party encourage support for a variety of efforts directed towards establishing the legitimacy of dissident, socialist and Marxist thought, including the efforts of Professor Andre Gunder Frank to obtain full travelling rights within Canada and the legal suit of Ross Dowson for slander against RCMP allegations that he and other Waffle supporters and members were subversive.



National

TORONTO STAR, SATURDAY, DECEMBER 29, 1979

Mountie secrets given to Crown ruled privileged

By Rick Brennan Toronto Star

In a precedent-setting decision, a federal court judge has ruled that information provided to the Crown by Royal Canadian Mounted Police officers performing their duty is protected by absolute privilege.

Mr. Justice Campbell Grant yesterday dismissed a motion brought by the former leader of a left-wing radical group wanting to sue the RCMP because it prepared a report on the group for the Ontario attorney-general.

The court was told in November that Ross Dowson, former chairman and executive secretary of the League for Socialist Action, felt his reputation was damaged by the report read by Attorney-General Roy McMurtry in the Legislature December, 1977.

Outraged by decision

Dowson's lawyer Harry Kopyto argued that the report implied members of the group were subversives. Dowson filed suit against the RCMP for \$500,000, damages. Kopyto has filed to appeal the judgment.

Kopyto said the RCMP gave R. M. McLeod, assistant attorney-general for Ontario, "slanderous" information about the League for Socialist Action, knowing full well that it would be repeated in the Legislature and subsequently picked up by the news media.

"I am satisfied . . . that such words complained of were spoken by such officers at that time on an occasion of absolute privilege," Grant said in his judgment.

Dowson told The Star last night he was outraged by the judge's decision.

"It permits the RCMP to accuse anybody of being a subversive," he said.

FLASH—Early this April or May will see the appeal against Federal Court Judge Grant's ruling come before three Federal Court judges, according to lawyer Harry Kopyto, representing Ross Dowson in his slander suit against the RCMP. Both Dowson and the RCMP have filed appeals to the Federal Court of Appeal—the latter to have the entire action dismissed. While Judge Campbell's ruling permits the Dowson suit to continue Dowson is appealing his ruling that the Crown is immune to being sued—which gives the RCMP the right to call anyone "subversive" with impunity and covers up its interference in the New Democratic Party and against the radical and labor movement generally.

The Socialist Rights Defence Fund which has won the support of many leading U.S. and Canadian politicians, labor leaders and intellectuals, is launching a new campaign for funds to meet its accumulating legal and publicity expenses—and to prepare to carry the case forward to the Supreme Court of Canada, if necessary.

The SRDF is also considering publication of a pamphlet on the case which would include Dowson's testimony before the Royal Commission into the Confidentiality of Health Records in Ontario. The Honourable Mr. Justice Horace Krever, who headed the commission, in thanking Dowson for bringing certain material to the committee's attention, commented: 'I haven't heard such an enlightening discussion on Marxism for perhaps twenty-five or thirty years.'

Toronto lawyer Pierre Genest, representing the federal government, said last night that it is the first time a court in Canada has ruled on whether communication by police acting for the Crown is protected.

The report, asked for by then New Democratic Party leader Stephen Lewis, was tabled by McMurtry to answer allegations that some Ontario New Democrats were investigated by the RCMP in the early '70s.

The report, which then Solicitor-General Francis Fox directed the RCMP to prepare, acknowledged the allegations and said that "subversive elements penetrated the NDP through the Waffle in order to gain respectability, credibility and influence."

The radical Waffle group developed in the early '70s shortly after Lewis became leader but the Waffle was expelled from the party at a subsequent NDP convention.

The RCMP report said the Waffle invited persons outside the NDP to join its ranks. "These persons included ex-members of the Communist Party of Canada and members of the Trotskyist movement. The leaders for the League for Socialist Action (Trotskyists), in fact, directed their members to join the Waffle group."

'A matter of state'

Genest argued before the federal court in November that the statement "concerned a matter of state and was made on behalf of the solicitor-general of Canada and therefore is not actionable."

The NDP at its 10th federal convention in November passed a resolution supporting Dowson's legal action against the RCMP.

COMMISSION OF INQUIRY

Concerning certain activities of the
Royal Canadian Mounted Police

COMMISSION D'ENQUÊTE

Sur certaines activités de la
Gendarmerie Royale du Canada

COMMISSIONERS/COMMISSAIRES

CHAIRMAN/PRESIDENT

Mr. Justice/M. le juge D.C. McDonald

Donald S. Rickard Q.C.
Guy Gilbert C.R.

CHIEF COUNSEL/PREMIER AVOCAT
John F. Howard Q.C.

SECRETARY/SECRETAIRE
H.R. Johnson

P.O. BOX/C.P. 1982
Station/Succursale 'B'
Ottawa, Canada K1P 5R5
(613) 593-7821



November 30, 1979

Our ref: 1000-4-R-7

Mr. Ross Dowson
50 Thorncliffe Avenue
Toronto, Ontario
M4K 1V5

Dear Mr. Dowson:

We are in receipt of your press release dated October 4, 1979 in which you indicate that you would be prepared to submit evidence that "dirty tricks" are still going on.

Kindly be advised that we are anxious to hear from you as to what evidence you do have in that regard so that we might in turn take appropriate investigative action.

Hoping to hear from you in the near future, I remain,

Yours truly,

Yvon Tarte
Commission Counsel

Not only the Anarchist needn't Saill Ste Marie
but testimony to Mc Murtry still interested

RCMP said
to Mc Murtry
acting asst
deputy attorney

"The RCMP concern with those individuals was not
reduced . . ."

121 Richmond St West, Suite 702,
Toronto, Ontario M5H 2K1

Harry Kopyto LL.B.

Barrister

Tel (416) 864-9323

December 4, 1979

Harry Johnson
Secretary
Commission of Inquiry into the RCMP
P.O. Box 1982, Station "B"
OTTAWA, Canada
K1P 5R5

Dear Sir:

Further to your letter to me dated November 20th, I wish to inform you that the name of the Public Service Alliance of Canada official who was involved in the incident discussed with you is Mr. Michael Lyons and he lives at 23 Hollaman Road, Toronto. He is presently employed by the Metropolitan Toronto Labour Council and may be reached by telephone either at work or at his home number, 783-7677.

I would also advise you that Mr. Lyons has agreed to relate details of both incidents to you at a mutually convenient time and place. I would further advise you that Mr. Alan Borovoy, General Counsel of the Civil Liberties Association, will be representing Mr. Lyons with respect to these matters from this point on.

Should you require any further information, please do not hesitate to call me.

Yours very truly,

HK:cmm

HARRY KOPYTO

c.c. Yvon Tarte
Michael Lyons



Solicitor General
of Canada

Solliciteur général
du Canada

DEC 20 1979

OTTAWA, K1A 0P8

DEC 14 1979

Mr. Harry Kopyto, L.L.B.
121 Richmond Street, West
Suite 702
Toronto, Ontario
M5H 2K4

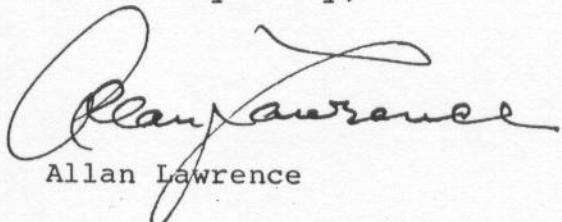
Dear Mr. Kopyto:

Thank you for your letter dated October 4, 1979, concerning the alleged questionable activities of the Royal Canadian Mounted Police.

I have had this matter investigated. There is no evidence before me that co-operation has been denied. Indeed, the Commissioner has directed that co-operation be extended to the Ontario Provincial Police in their investigation.

Should you have specified knowledge of any unwillingness to co-operate shown by the R.C.M.P., please advise me.

Yours very truly,



Allan Lawrence

P.S. I have now received an unsigned letter on your letter head dated October 24, 1979 in reply to which I trust you will find the foregoing satisfactory.

121 Richmond St West Suite 702,
Toronto, Ontario M5H 2K1

Harry Kopyto LL.B.

Barrister

Tel (416) 864-9323

December 20, 1979

The Honourable Roy McMurtry
Attorney General for the
Province of Ontario
18 King St. East
18th Floor
Toronto, Ont.

Dear Sir:

Enclosed please find a letter received from the Federal Solicitor General with respect to the Ontario Provincial Police investigation which was commenced by your department into the Royal Canadian Mounted Police as a result of evidence heard by the Ontario Commission into the Confidentiality of Health Records.

As the RCMP seem to be cooperating fully in this matter, and as the solicitor for the informants and complainants in this matter, I would appreciate being informed when you expect the OPP investigation to be concluded and I would further ask that you inform me of the results of your investigation.

Yours very truly,

HK:cmm
C.C. Ross Dowson ✓

HARRY KOPYTO

Sarg. Pelissero



HOUSE OF COMMONS

CANADA

TELEPHONE

OTTAWA (613) 996-5597
BURNABY (604) 434-4022

Dear Fellow New Democrats:

As you may know, the delegates of the Tenth Federal Convention of the New Democratic Party adopted a motion unanimously encouraging support for the legal suit of Ross Dowson for slander against RCMP allegations that he and other Waffle supporters and members were subversive. The suit arose out of attempts by the RCMP to justify interference within the NDP in the early 1970s.

For two years, Mr. Dowson's legal efforts for his day in court have been frustrated by attempts by the RCMP to block the case from proceeding to trial. RCMP concern about the evidence of illegal acts directed against the NDP emerging through the trial process appears to be behind this attempt to block the case.

In our opinion, the Dowson case deserves to be heard. Should individuals whose views may not coincide with those of the majority at any given time be unable to defend themselves from unjustified accusations of subversion, this would be a significant blow to the democratic process.

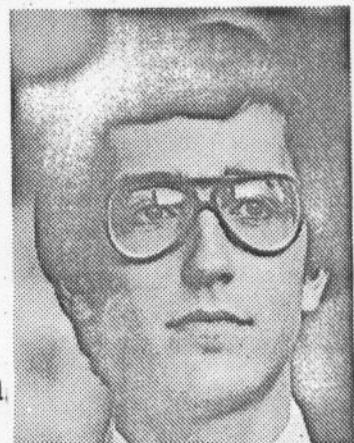
The RCMP has appealed the case to the Federal Court of Appeal on a preliminary motion. When the case comes up to be heard early this summer, the RCMP will attempt to block the action entirely. Counsel for the RCMP has further indicated his willingness to advise that the matter be taken to the Supreme Court of Canada in the event that the appeal is lost.

Justice and democracy has its price. The RCMP have unlimited federal funds at their disposal. Mr. Dowson's lawyers are volunteering their services. But transcripts still cost thousands of dollars. The RCMP can be beaten in the courts, but it will require all of us to unite to see the case through.

We urge you to extend financial support to Mr. Dowson's efforts to obtain justice. Please forward a contribution today payable to the Socialist Rights Defence Fund, organized to provide financial backing for the suit. An injury to one is an injury to all.

Svend Robinson
Spokesperson for the
NDP on Justice and
Solicitor-General

Send your contribution to the Socialist Rights Defence Fund,
50 Thorncliffe Avenue, Toronto, Ontario, M4K 1V5.



121 Richmond St West Suite 702,
Toronto, Ontario M5H 2K1

Harry Kopyto LL.B.

Barrister

Tel (416) 864-9323

March 31, 1980

Ministry of The Attorney
General
Crown Law Office (Criminal)
16th Floor
18 King St. East
Toronto, Ontario
M5C 1C5

Att'n: Harry G. Black
Deputy Director

Dear Sir:

Further to my last letter to you 26th day of March, 1980, I have yet to receive a response to any of my telephone calls or letters requesting that a decision be made with respect to the grievances my clients have against the Royal Canadian Mounted Police as revealed before the Ontario Commission on the Confidentiality of Health Records.

I would appreciate as a matter of courtesy being informed of your decision with respect to laying charges against allegedly culable individuals by the middle of the month of April.

My instructions are that, failing to hear from you at that time, I am to advise my clients of such legal rights as they may have in order to ensure that informations are laid against the individuals responsible for harassing them and that process is issued.

I hope that as a matter of courtesy you will take the time to inform me of what your decision is.

Yours very truly,

COMMISSION OF INQUIRY

Concerning certain activities of the
Royal Canadian Mounted Police

COMMISSION D'ENQUÊTE

Sur certaines activités de la
Gendarmerie Royale du Canada

COMMISSIONERS/COMMISSAIRES**CHAIRMAN/PRESIDENT**

Mr. Justice/M. le juge D.C. McDonald

Donald S. Rickard Q.C.
Guy Gilbert C.R.

CHIEF COUNSEL/PREMIER AVOCAT

John F. Howard Q.C.

SECRETARY/SECRETAIRE

H.R. Johnson

P.O. BOX/C.P. 1982
Station/Succursale 'B'
Ottawa, Canada K1P 5R5
(613) 593-7821



April 9, 1980

Our ref: 1000-4-R-7

Harry Kopyto, Esq.
Suite 702
121 Richmond St. West
Toronto, Ontario
M5H 2K1

Dear Mr. Kopyto:

I refer to your recent correspondence wherein you seek permission, on behalf of your various clients, to cross-examine Mr. Francis Fox.

In order to properly answer your request for standing it is important to refer to the exact text of the Commission's decision on the question of representation before the Commission. This decision was handed down publicly on December 8, 1977 (Vol.5, p.486, public transcript) and reads as follows:

"The following counsel will be recognized as having the right to examine witnesses heard at public hearings of the Commission into any allegation of an "investigative action or other activity involving persons who are members of the R.C.M.P. that was not authorized or provided for by law" or into any fact relating to "policies or procedures governing the activities of the R.C.M.P. in the discharge of its responsibility to protect the security of Canada."

Counsel for any person against whom any charge is made in the course of the investigation by this Commission;

Counsel for the Commission;

Counsel for any person whose conduct is being investigated by the Commission."

The Commission disagrees with you that we have had "occasion to investigate (your) clients themselves by asking them questions regarding their activities directly or, (...) by asking for and investigating the relevant RCMP files."

Although it may have been necessary to look at the conduct of some of your clients, such examination was purely incidental to the investigative work of our Commission. We are not investigating, nor do we intend to investigate the conduct of your clients.

Since the persons you represent do not fall within any of the categories enunciated on December 8, 1977, the Commission has decided that your request cannot be acceded to.

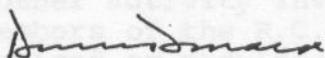
It is also indicated in (Vol.5, p.487) that:

"In the investigation of facts at public hearings, counsel for persons, groups or associations may draw to the attention of counsel for the Commission what areas of inquiry should be entered into and what specific questions should be asked."

The Commission therefore invites you to get in touch with Ross Goodwin to indicate what specific concerns you suggest should be raised in the cross-examination of Mr. Fox or any other witness.

I thank you for the interest you have shown in the work of our Commission.

Yours truly,



Chairman

SOCIALIST RIGHTS DEFENCE FUND

CHRISTINE JUDGE, Administrative Secretary
HARRY PAINES, Pres. of St. David's NDP, Treasurer

50 Thorncliffe Ave.
Toronto M4K 1V5

FROM OUR GROWING
NUMBER OF SUPPORTERS*

CONFIDENTIAL 108

INTERNATIONAL:
Naom Chomsky, Jessica Mitford,
Linus Pauling, Benjamin Spock

CANADA

ROBERT ALBRITTON, professor
of political science,
York University

MARY BOYCE, lawyer

ANDREW BREWIN, NDP-MP

DOUGLAS CAMPBELL, actor

CARL CUNEO, professor

of sociology,

McMaster University

KENNETH DANSON, lawyer

CHANDLER DAVIS, professor

of mathematics,

University of Toronto

DR. D. DICKMAN, psychiatrist

DR. JAMES J. ENDICOTT of

The Far East Newsletter

SAM FOX, president

of the Labor Council of

Metrop. Toronto

EDGAR Z. FRIEDBERG,

professor of education,

Dalhousie University

DANNY GOLDSTICK, professor

of philosophy,

University of Toronto

CY GONICK of

Canadian Dimension

REV. DUKE T. GRAY of

the Unitarian Congregation,

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JOHN HARNEY, professor of

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York University

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DENIS SMITH of

The Canadian Forum

NEIL TUDIVER,

department of social work,

University of Manitoba

A. L. WERNICK, professor

of sociology,

Trent University

STEPHEN WILLIAMS of

Exile and Toronto Life

*organizations listed for
identification only

Letter (2)

May 11, 1980

The Provincial Office of the NDP

Dear Friends:

Some weeks ago, on behalf of the SRDF I sent a letter asking you if you would be so good as to send us a list of the appropriate officer of the various constituency associations in your provincial section. As I explained I wish to mail material on the slander suit that Ross Dawson has initiated against the RCMP for its violations of the civil rights of the trade union movement, the NDP, and its branding of dissident views as subversive.

I have since learned that some provincial offices rather than release such lists have adopted a policy of offering to mail such material with their next regular mailing that they themselves make - some making a nominal charge to help cover costs of postage.

Since I have not up until now heard from you I am wondering if that is the policy of your office. If it is, would you kindly inform me of the number of copies of the material I should send you, and what, if any, contribution I should forward towards postal costs.

Sincerely
Christine Judge
Christine Judge

July 23/80 RD phoned

McDonald Commission 1-613-593-7821

- told ~~to~~ phone Mr Brennan 1-613-995-5142

- told to phone Yvon Tarte 995-7440

(He) said that they would of course take a written submission
+ it would be considered - but he considers that there
is not the slightest chance of our being able to present
an oral submission - the CCLW submission was slated
over 2 yrs ago - they are trying desperately to wind things
down & have done so with entire areas - of course we
could always write the 3 chief big commissioners but the
chances of their agreeing are nil

They are still investigating the various incidents that I +
Harry K brought to their attention. I mentioned Ron -
(gay infiltrator in Montreal) - yes they have spoken to him -
there will be reports on them.

SOCIALIST RIGHTS DEFENCE FUND

50 Thorncliffe Ave.
Toronto M4K 1V5

CHRISTINE JUDGE, Administrative Secretary
HARRY PAINE, Pres. of St. David's NDP, Treasurer

FROM OUR GROWING
NUMBER OF SUPPORTERS*

August 1, 1980

Dear

We are now coming to a new stage in the Dowson slander suit against the RCMP. On September 23 our appeal comes before the federal court.

Not an integral part of the slander suit but highly relevant to it is the attempt of our lawyer Harry Kopyto, with the aid of Paul Copeland and others, to lay charges against two RCMP officers for forging, uttering a forged document and circulating a false message in the process of an RCMP Operation Checkmate. This attempt to force federal and provincial authorities to implement the law will come before Justice of Peace Allen on September 3.

In an effort to give the suit as high as possible profile in the next immediate period we have decided to prepare an advertisement which we hope certain journals would be willing to carry gratis, or failing that we could place in a key national daily prior to those dates. To carry this off we have decided to appeal to some of the more widely known supporters of the Dowson suit to write several lines as to why they support the suit and why others should also support it. We are approaching about a dozen of the more prominent supporters from several areas of public life. We already have an excellent statement from MP Svend Robinson, spokesperson for the NDP on Justice and Solicitor-general. We hope that your contribution, along with that of others, will go a long way towards enabling us to win wider public support and the financial means to carry the case forward. We already know that the RCMP is prepared to take it to the Supreme Court.

In view of the short time at our disposal we would appreciate your responding to this request the first opportunity that you have. If possible we would like a small photo which we would return promptly.

We enclose some of the latest material on the case for your perusal. You will be pleased to know that two of the larger Autoworkers union locals have recently made a contribution, that the Federal New Brunswick NDP has contributed \$50 and that several provincial sections of the NDP will be circulating our material to their constituency associations shortly.

Thanks for your consideration

sincerely
C. Judge
C. Judge

*organizations listed for identification only

SOCIALIST RIGHTS DEFENCE FUND

50 Thorncliffe Ave.
Toronto M4K 1V5

CHRISTINE JUDGE, Administrative Secretary
HARRY PAINE, Pres. of St. David's NDP, Treasurer

FROM OUR GROWING NUMBER OF SUPPORTERS*

CCW 108

Dear friend:

We are now coming into a new stage in the Dawson slander suit against the RCMP. On September 23 our appeal against Federal Court Judge Campbell Grant's ruling at the year's end comes before three federal court judges. Regardless of their finding it appears certain that the case will go before the Supreme Court.

Not an integral part of the slander suit but highly relevant to it is the attempt of our lawyer Harry Kopyto, with the aid of Paul Copeland and others, to lay charges against two RCMP officers for forging, uttering a forged document and circulating a false message in the process of an RCMP Operation Checkmate. This attempt to force federal and provincial authorities to implement the law will come before Justice of Peace Allen on September 3.

On June 2 we lost an appeal before a federal court judge to obtain a court order granting us the right to appear before the McDonald Commission of Inquiry to question RCMPers testifying before it and to present evidence for investigation. The judge, on the appeal of the McDonald Commission's lawyer, J.J. Robinette, dismissed Kopyto's appeal and found court costs against us.

As you know, all this is a very expensive action. The RCMP has the public treasury at its disposal. While our lawyers are volunteering their services, the transcripts alone cost thousands of dollars. We need an extra effort from all of our supporters to see us through to the next stage and we are counting on you in this effort.

We have other plans to widen our base of support. We are preparing with some of our more widely known supporters an ad which we hope certain journals will be willing to carry gratis. Failing that, and depending on our success with this appeal we intend to place it in a key national daily prior to the September dates.

We enclose some of the latest material on the case for your perusal. You will be pleased to know that two of the larger Autoworkers locals have recently made a contribution, that the Federal New Brunswick NDP has contributed \$50 and that several provincial sections of the NDP will be circulating our material to their constituencies.

We are anticipating your immediate and generous response to this appeal and thank you in advance.

sincerely

C. Judge
C. Judge.

Le suivent réouverture

raïval à-vis égion travail-italier é leur sûrement des relations de travail calmes et des salaires pas trop "excessifs".

De plus, une des recommandations de la CSN exige la réappropriation par le groupe Samson de tout ce qui se produit sous le nom de Vaillancourt dans d'autres entreprises (Culinar, Pom, Caméo). On semble oublier que de telles opérations sont justement à l'origine de la fermeture de Vaillancourt et que cela pourrait occasionner des mises à pieds chez ces "autres entreprises".

Malgré qu'on ne croit pas qu'il soit possible d'obtenir la réouverture de l'usine en convaincant Samson de changer ses façons de faire de l'argent, il faut tout faire pour développer la solidarité autour de la lutte pour la réouverture, car il est primordial de vaincre le fléau des fermetures d'usines et en ce sens, les travailleurs de Vaillancourt peuvent montrer la voie. Il est aussi très important de confronter Samson et le gouvernement péquiste en exigeant la nationalisation sans indemnité, seul moyen pour que "ça grouille".

Yves Bergeron

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s les USA).....	\$3.50
LIERS
.....	\$10.00
s les USA).....	\$15.00
en.....	\$15.00
al.....	\$
STITUTIONS
.....	\$15.00
ris les USA).....	\$20.00

Prov.-Etat _____

Téléphone _____

chèque ou mandat-poste à:
2, Succ. N, Montréal, Québec H2X 3M6

La poursuite de Dowson contre la GRC gagne un soutien croissant

La poursuite intentée par Ross Dowson contre la Gendarmerie royale du Canada gagne un soutien croissant. Dowson, un ancien dirigeant de la League for Socialist Action, poursuit la GRC pour fabrications de fausses lettres visant à le discréditer. Sa poursuite a déjà gagné le soutien du 10e congrès fédéral du NPD, de Grace Hartman, présidente du syndicat canadien de la fonction publique, Jean-Marie Bédard, président régional du syndicat international des travailleurs du bois d'Amérique (FTQ) et du député NPD à Ottawa Svend Robinson. Lutte Ouvrière s'y joint pour exiger que toute la lumière se fasse sur les agissements de la GRC et que ses victimes soient compensées pour les torts qu'elles ont subi. Nous publions ci-dessous la déclaration de principe émise par le fonds de défense des droits socialistes.

Déclaration de principe"

"Nous désirons souligner qu'en tant que citoyens concernés, nous appuyons l'action entreprise par M. Ross Dowson contre la Gendarmerie royale du Canada. A ce que nous en savons, le procès intenté par M. Dowson vise à établir la légitimité et la légalité de la pensée socialiste face aux accusations de "subversion" portées par la GRC.

Nous croyons que les individus ont le droit d'exprimer leur point de vue en toute liberté sans courir le risque de se faire accuser sans raison et sans preuve de subversion.

Nous croyons que l'accusation de subversion a été utilisée et est encore utilisée pour justifier l'ingérence dans les affaires internes et le harcèlement d'organisations légales comme le Nouveau parti démocratique et le mouvement syndical. Plus encore, nous croyons que de telles activités menacent de gruger peu à peu le droit démocratique de dissension au Canada.

Quoique nous ne partagions pas nécessairement les opinions politiques de M. Dowson, nous croyons néanmoins qu'une démocratie est réellement mise à l'épreuve lorsqu'elle se montre capable de tolérer et de respecter les individus dont les points de vue peuvent ne pas coincider avec ceux de la majorité à une époque donnée.

Nous remplissons les casiers appropriés:
 Ajoutez mon nom à la liste de ceux qui appuient M. Dowson.
 Ci-inclus, une contribution au Fonds pour aider à défrayer les coûts légaux.

Signature.....

Nom.....

adresse.....

Retournez cette déclaration le plus vite possible au Socialist Rights Defense Fund (Fonds de défense des droits socialistes).

Christine Judge, secrétaire administrative, Harry Paine (président du NPD de St-David), trésorier, 50 Thorncliffe Avenue, Toronto, Ontario, M4K 1V6.

25 Août 1980

Lutte Ouvrière, François Moreau, Rédacteur
François Moreau

1980

1980

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re RCMP gay plant

also McDonald

re that — TU incidents

+ your other testimon
PATS — Bert etc

Centrality of power Sept 3
Case

Get Labor org
ask Metro Labor Support

Sex pamphlet out

~~272~~
6388
2549

~~2724~~
~~8937~~
8937

SOCIALIST RIGHTS DEFENCE FUND

CHRISTINE JUDGE, Administrative Secretary
HARRY PAINE, Pres. of St. David's NDP, Treasurer

50 Thorncliffe Ave.
Toronto M4K 1V5

FROM OUR GROWING
NUMBER OF SUPPORTERS*

September 4, 1980

INTERNATIONAL
Naomi Chomsky, Jessica Mitford,
Liane Pauline, Benjamin Spock

CANADA

ROBERT ALBRITTON, professor
of political science,
York University
MARY BOYCE, lawyer
ANDREW DREW, NDP-MP
DON LASAMPRELL, actor
CARL CUNNINGHAM, professor
of sociology
McMaster University

KENNETH DANSON, lawyer
CHANDLER DAVIS, professor
of mathematics
University of Toronto

DR. D. DUKKAN, psychiatrist
DR. JAMES L. ENDICOTT of
The Far East Newsletter

SAM FOX, president
of the Edmonton Council of
Metis Lemons

EDGAR Z. IRH-DEBNERG,
professor of education,
Dalhousie University

DANNY GOLDSTEIN, professor
of philosophy
University of Toronto

C. V. GONICK of
Canadian Dimension

REV. DUKE T. GRAY of
the Unitarian Congregation,
Toronto

JOHN HARNEY, professor of
Canadian Studies, Atkinson College,
York University

GRAFT HARTMAN, president of
the Canadian Union of
Public Employees

GREG KELLEY, professor of
history, Dalhousie University

PAT KERWIN, director
of personal education, CEC

MARGARET T. LAWRENCE, author
D. W. LIVINGSTON, professor
of sociology, UPEI

JAN LUMSDEN, professor
of political science,
York University

GEORGE MARSHALL, author
MICHAEL MASON, professor
of history, Concordia University

TERRY MC CALLISTER,
secretary treasurer, OLF

G. T. & C. T. MCLEWIN of
Actions of the Moment

MAX NEUFIELD, professor
de science politique, UCalgary

B. D. PALMER, professor
of history, Queen's

ELEANOR PELLINE, professor
of political science,
Carleton University

GLEN PATTERSON,
Canadian director, president IUE
(AFL-CIO/CFC)

ELEANOR WRIGHT PELLINE,
author

NORMAN PENNER, professor
of political science,
Glendon Campus, York

H. C. PENTLAND, professor
of economics,
University of Manitoba

AL PURDY, poet

JAMES W. RINEHART, professor
of sociology, University of
Western Ontario

SATU REPO, author

CHARLES ROACH, lawyer
WAYNE ROBERTS of *Forward*

ELLIOU ROSE, professor
of history, University of
Toronto

JOE ROSENBLATT, poet
SIMON ROSENBLUM, professor
of sociology

Laurentian University

JOE ROSENTHAL, artist
CLAYTON C. RUBY, lawyer
J. L. SKOBERG, NDP-MLA,
Saskatchewan

DENIS SMITH of
The Canadian Forum

NEIL TUDIVER,
department of social work,
University of Manitoba

A. L. WERNICK, professor
of sociology,
Trent University

STEPHEN WILLIAMS of
Exile and Toronto Life

*organizations listed for
identification only

Jean-Claude Parrot, president
Canadian Union of Postal Workers
280 Metcalfe St.
Ottawa, Ont.

Dear Brother Parrot:

I think that to some extent you must be acquainted with the slander suit that I have launched against the RCMP- and the support that has been building up for the SRDF from Canadians in many walks of life.

To date the support from the trade union movement, as you can see from the add on the leaflet addressed to unionists, is all too small - particularly when we know that the unions are the only really effective force for the defence of civil rights - once they move. The list is outdated---we are also able to add Dick Martin, president of the Manitoba Federation of Labour and Leo McKay, executive secretary of the Nova Scotia Federation of Labour

But I am hoping that you will take time out to give special attention to the enclosed material. In my personal capacity I must say that I would be truly honoured if you will give us permission to use your name as being in support of this most important cause.

thanks for your consideration

Ross Dowson

SOCIALIST RIGHTS DEFENCE FUND

50 Thorncliffe Ave.
Toronto M4K 1V5

CHRISTINE JUDGE, Administrative Secretary
HARRY PAINE, Pres. of St. David's NDP, Treasurer

FROM OUR GROWING
NUMBER OF SUPPORTERS*

October 4, 1980

INTERNATIONAL:
Noam Chomsky, Jessica Mitford,
Linus Pauling, Benjamin Spock

CANADA

ROBERT ALBRITTON, professor
of political science,
York University
MARY BOYCE, lawyer
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STEPHEN WILLIAMS of
Exile and Toronto Life

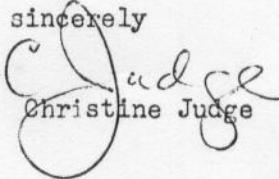
*organizations listed for
identification only

Ontario New Democratic Party
184 Main Street
Toronto, Ont. M4E 2W1

Dear friends;

Back on August 7 under separate cover I mailed to the above address, in care of Penny Dickens, 150 copies of two pieces of literature dealing with the efforts of the SRDF in support of the Dowson suit against the RCMP. This was in response to a letter from Penny, past provincial secretary at the time, who informed us that the executive had approved the inclusion of our material in one of your regular mailings to the Ontario ridings.

We are wondering if this material inadvertently got put aside in the confusion of your moving as I know of two Toronto ridings that have not yet received this mailing.

sincerely

Christine Judge

SOCIALIST RIGHTS DEFENCE FUND

50 Thorncliffe Ave.
Toronto M4K 1V5

FROM OUR GROWING
NUMBER OF SUPPORTERS*

CHRISTINE JUDGE, Administrative Secretary
HARRY PAINE, Pres. of St. David's NDP, Treasurer

October 4, 1980

INTERNATIONAL:
Naom Chomsky, Jessica Mitford,
Linus Pauling, Benjamin Spock

CANADA

ROBERT ALBRITTON, professor
of political science,
York University

MARY BOYCE, lawyer

ANDREW BREWIN, NDP-MP

DOUGLAS CAMPBELL, actor

CARL CUNEO, professor
of sociology

McMaster University

KENNETH DANSON, lawyer

CHANDLER DAVIS, professor
of mathematics,

University of Toronto

DR. D. DICKMAN, psychiatrist

DR. JAMES J. ENDICOTT of
The Far East Newsletter

SAM FOX, president

of the Labour Council of

Metro Toronto

EDGAR Z. FRIEDENBERG,

professor of education,

Dalhousie University

DANNY GOLDSTICK, professor

of philosophy,

University of Toronto

CY GONICK of
Canadian Dimension

REV. DUKE T. GRAY of

the Unitarian Congregation,

Toronto

JOHN HARNEY, professor of

Canadian Studies, Atkinson College,

York University

GRACE HARTMAN, president of

the Canadian Union of

Public Employees

GREG KEALEY, professor of

history, Dalhousie University

PAT KERWIN, director

of political education, CLC

MARGARET LAURENCE, author

D. W. LIVINGSTONE, professor

of sociology, OISE

IAN LUMSDEN, professor

of political science,

York University

GEORGE MARTELL, author

MICHAEL MASON, professor

of history, Concordia University

TERRY MEAGHER,

secretary treasurer, OFL

G. J. & C. J. McEWEN of

Affairs of the Moment

MAX NEMNI, professor

de science politique, Laval

B. D. PALMER, professor

of history, Queen's

LEO PANICII, professor

of political science,

Carleton University

GLEN PATTINSON,

Canadian district president IUE

(AFT-CIO/CLC)

ELEANOR WRIGHT PELRINE,

author

NORMAN PIENNER, professor

of political science,

Glendon Campus, York

H. C. PENTLAND, professor

of economics,

University of Manitoba

AL PURDY, poet

JAMES W. RINEHART, professor

of sociology, University of

Western Ontario

SATU REPO, author

CHARLES ROACH, lawyer

WAYNE ROBERTS of *Forward*

ELLIOT ROSE, professor

of history,

University of Toronto

JOE ROSENBLATT, poet

SIMON ROSENBLUM, professor

of sociology,

Lakehead University

JOE ROSENTHAL, artist

CLAYTON C. RUBY, lawyer

J. L. SKOBERG, NDP-MLA,

Saskatchewan

DENIS SMITH of

The Canadian Forum

NEIL TUDIVER,

department of social work,

University of Manitoba

A. L. WERNICK, professor

of sociology,

Trent University

STEPHEN WILLIAMS of

Exile and Toronto Life

*organizations listed for

identification only

John B. Lang, secretary-treasurer
Confederation of Canadian Unions
1331½ St Clair Ave., West
Toronto M6E 1C3

Dear John Lang;

Thanks very much for your request for the 100 copies of the sheet carrying the material of the RCMP files on Mike Lyons. We assume that you received them alright as we have received a statement of support from your associate Angus Macphree.

They cost us 10 cents a copy so the 100 copies sent on to you we are billing at \$10. A cheque to our above address would be much appreciated.

You will be pleased to know that we have just recently received the support of the Metro Toronto Labor Council along with the support of the Brampton, Vancouver, Kamloops, Victoria and Trail labor councils.

With your permission we would be happy to add your name to our list of supporters either as editor of your union's paper or as secretary-treasurer of the Confederation of Canadian Unions. We would appreciate your permission by return mail as we are going to press with a revised list of supporters.

Incidentally Margaret Atwood has given us a nice statement of support for an ad we are preparing. We are hoping that this leads to This Magazine with which you and other important social activists are associated giving our efforts the breaks we need against the RCMP

sincerely
Chris Judge

I am enclosing a copy of a leaflet on the suit that you may not have seen



Solicitor General
of Canada

Solliciteur général
du Canada

OTTAWA, K1A OP8

Mr. Harry Kopyto
111 Richmond St. West
Suite 202
Toronto, Ontario
M5H 2G4

Dec 11/80?

Dear Mr. Kopyto:

Thank you for your letters of July 4 and November 3, 1980, concerning Mr. Michael D. Lyons. I regret the lengthy delay in replying to you.

Unfortunately, I cannot fully accede to your request by commenting publicly on all the facts alleged by Mr. Lyons. As you are aware, I and the RCMP are bound by the Human Rights Act to protect the privacy of individuals to the greatest extent consistent with the public interest. Accordingly, it is not permissible to provide a third party with any personal information relating to other individuals that may be in the government's possession.

I should also mention that section 53 of the Human Rights Act provides for the exemption from access of specific banks of information. It is my understanding that a direct request for personal information from Mr. Lyons for security related information would, in all likelihood, be denied on the basis of national security.

I am assured, however, that the RCMP have not been harassing Mr. Lyons, and the file described as having been viewed by Mr. Lyons is not the property of the RCMP.

Yours truly,

Bob Kaplan, P.C., M.P.

forward

Ross Dowson,
121 Church Street
Toronto

December 19, 1980

Beatty & Church
208- 103 Church Street
Toronto

Attention Thad McIlroy

Dear Thad:

In respect to the generous offer you outlined in your note of the 16th:

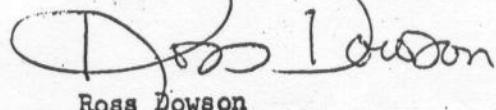
I would prefer that in the "business" end it be more orthodox. In respect to the cause the publication is involved in I would prefer that your generosity be expressed by a very full, even "extravagant" employment of the facilities that you have built up in the operations now available to Beatty & Church--which you are probably contemplating anyway. After all there are hard commitments such as rent, wages, advertising etc that all including this book must and should meet. I would not want any arrangement that we will make to fail to meet this basic responsibility and thereby, even possibly, jeopardize its full implementation.

I am meeting the full manufacturing costs of a serviceable run. I would appreciate it if Beatty and Church would make an outright purchase of something in the neighborhood of one thousand copies at suitable terms so that I can handle that basic cost which our fund is as yet somewhat short of completely doing.

I believe that the normal discount terms are in the neighborhood of 60% and 40%--payment within a specified time.

I would appreciate it if Beatty and Church could be generous in the direction of extending itself in areas such as newspaper ads in the leading dailies in the 7 or so major Canadian centers--in obtaining reviews of the pamphlet in the major media, etc., etc.,--that is in the area of promotion and distribution.

sincerely



Ross Dowson

As soon as we receive the shipment today I will phone you

Ross Dowson #2311
40 Homewood Ave
Toronto, M4Y2K2

Jan 2, 1981

Editors of This Magazine

70 the Esplanade, 3rd floor
Toronto, M5E 1R2

Dear friends:

As you will note from the list of supporters of the Socialist Rights Defence Fund(possibly the largest list ever of prominent Canadians to identify with the civil rights of a declared Marxist on the issue of "subversion") there are many persons identified with your Magazine. Among them are Ian Adams and Margaret Atwood. It was on this basis that we have been hoping that you would publish material on the Dowson V the RCMP case, possibly one or two of the ads, repros of which we have sent you. Certainly the SRDF needs any and all support that it can get

Possibly you have been waiting for something that one of your staff could get their teeth into. Under separate cover I have sent you a copy of the booklet Dowson V. the RCMP. We would appreciate it if you would give it a review, and possibly run the last add with the Kealey, Atwood, --, Ruby statements to give SRDF a needed boost.

Thanks for any favors and seasons greetings


Ross Dowson

January 6, 1981

Harry Paine
50 Thorncliffe Ave.,
Toronto, Ont. M4K 1V5

C.P. Neale
secretary-treasurer of the Vancouver Labour Council

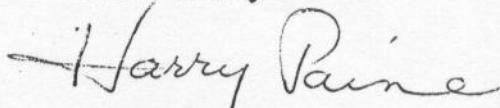
Dear Paddy:

A couple of days ago I took the liberty of sending you a copy of a book that Ross Dowson gave me that pulls all the action around his suit against the RCMP and the efforts of the Socialist Rights Defence Fund together. I thought that you might like a copy. It is now being sold in Classic and Cole bookstores in the Toronto area and should be in BC, shortly

Does the Vancouver Labour council publish a booklet on its activities listing all the affiliated locals, their officers names and addresses? Toronto puts out quite an impressive one. If you do would be so good to mail me a copy.

Thanks

fraternally



Harry Paine

WARNING

ALL MAIL:
subject to
RCMP inspection

#8 1547 GRAFTON
HALIFAX, N.S.
B3J 2B9
JAN 7/86

Dear Ross Dawson and friends:

Thank you for taking bold opportunity & placing the ad in the globe and mail. I was proud to see my name, although I had only contributed a dollar, and didn't really need a receipt! Believe me, though, there are an awful lot more people out here who would support the S.R.D.F. if they only read forward, or paid more attention to RCMP (state) crimes against the people.

As a p.s. I might mention that your ranking of occupation categories in the pamphlet 'Support this Cry' do a pretty jumbled list. Professors of law before workers, but workers after Trade Union Councils etc.

Anyway, that's a pretty slight criticism, and please take it that way. All the best of luck and my wishes for continued support. If you have posters, or flyers ^{will} post & distribute at the local radical bookstore & Art College where I am a student.

Yours in Solidarity,
Doug Meggison



PARLIAMENTARY PRESS GALLERY
TRIBUNE DE LA PRESSE PARLEMENTAIRE

January 24, 1981

Mr. Ross Dowson,
40 Homewood Ave., No. 2311,
Toronto, Ont.
M4Y 2K2

Dear Mr. Dowson:

Thank you very much for dispatching a ~~book~~ ^{Copy} of your book. It was read with considerable interest and appreciation.

Your book makes a needed contribution -- I say this without agreeing with your basic political platform. However I thought your marxist analysis of the illegal-activities issue was deficient when you turned the microscope on the RCMP itself. If you follow the model of class exploiting class in society as a whole, I think you must do the same within the RCMP, particularly since it is a para-military organization. The RCMP's demarcation line between the commissioned officers and the enlisted men is stronger than any division existing in general society. Like you, I once believed that individual Mounties who once engaged in illegal activities should be prosecuted, but now believe that would be wrong and unfair. The so-called "foot soldiers" who have actually performed these acts have been drilled ever since boot camp in Regina to follow orders or else lose their careers. I think it would be no fairer to prosecute these individuals than to convict every soldier who fought for Germany in World War Two. Responsibility should be firmly pinned on the officers who not only provided the orders but endorsed the policy as well as provided the human and financial resources to see such operations through. I'm not a marxist, in any of its variations, but it seems to me that viewing the RCMP as one big monolith is too simple (as well as non-marxist). I don't want to engage in a debate (especially since you know your political theory much, much better than I do) and offer the above perspective only as a thought provoker.

Again, congratulations on your book.

Best wishes,



JOHN SAWATSKY
265 DALY AVE #31
OTTAWA ONTARIO
K1N 6G4

Congratulations on your book. I read it with considerable interest and appreciation. Your book makes a needed contribution -- I say this without agreeing with your basic political platform.

1981

first press comments on the book DOWSON V RCMP --- \$3.95 from
Forward publishers
Box 778, Adelaid St. P.O.
Toronto , M5C 2K1

from an article in The Peak, a democratic, autonomous newspaper published twice weekly at Simon Fraser University, B.C. and written by its editor Alastair McColl. It appeared in the February 4, 1981 issue.

" Dowson vs RCMP is a book that cannot be ignored."

"... it is a book which deserves to be taken seriously. It deals with a problem which affects all Canadians one way or another, and one we will probably be struggling with for the next few years."

{ "... with the release of the McDonald Commission report on the RCMP 'dirty tricks' his case has suddenly become a cause celebre. As the only action in progress against the RCMP's own subversion of civil rights it has become the focal point of protest. This is probably why the book was produced: it places Dowson's experience in the context of organized and widespread persecution of left wing organizations by the RCMP."

"... This is the most interesting part of the book because it is one of the few serious modern attempts to legitimatize revolutionary socialism."

"... Even if we disagree with Dowson on various points, it seems clear that his program is at least not subversive. He deserves, as do all Canadians to express his beliefs without fear of police harassment."

from Workers Action (63) February, 1981 , written by editorial board member Ian Kellogg

"Dowson's book is part of the process of fighting to protect civil liberties essential (to) the labour movement and the Left. It is also a useful record of RCMP harassment of the unions, the NDP and socialist groups. For these reasons , it deserves a wide circulation."

from John Sawatsky, author of Men in the Shadows - the RCMP Security Service. published by Doubleday Canada Limited, Toronto 1980 \$15.00

I support the Dowson suit because I want to ensure that our children are brought up in a world that respects justice and the rights of individuals to think and act critically and creatively without fear of being branded as subversives or looked upon as threats. Support for the Dowson suit is a crucial step in protecting our civil rights and preventing a climate of repression to be further established in this country. I encourage everyone - especially teachers - to support the Dowson suit so that we might protect our own right to become politically astute and those of our students. When I teach a lesson to a group of children on the RCMP "upholding the right" I don't want it to be a lesson on hypocrisy.

Peter McLaren

, teacher and author of *Greens from the Corridor*.

Illegal actions are illegal no matter who does them. If the police do not respect the laws of the land and the individual's right to privacy, who will?

Margaret Atwood, author, *Life before Man*, ~~Lady Oracle~~, etc

I hope our Courts will openly and fully investigate the actions of the RCMP concerning Ross Dowson. If political freedom is to exist in this country, we must all support the right to organize without being subjected to government terrorism.

Clayton C Ruby -

~~Congress~~ civil libertarian and lawyer

In an allegedly democratic society any role of the police which touches on politics should concern us all. The appalling behaviour of the RCMP in the late 1960s and early 1970s, now documented in the Krever, Keable, and McDonald Commissions, went far beyond the norms of a truly democratic society. We should all be working to make sure it doesn't happen again.

Gregory S. Kealey, professor and author of *Toronto Workers Report*
Industrial Capitalism 1867-1897

SRDF

50 Thorncliffe Ave.
Toronto M4K 1V5

February 2, 1981

Doug Meggison
1547 Grafton, #8
Halifax, N.S. B3J 2B9

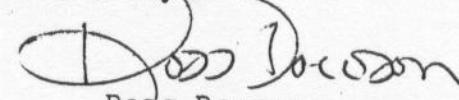
Dear friend;

Under separate cover I have taken the liberty of sending some flyers on the SRDF efforts. I hope there are some good opportunities to distribute them at public meetings and rallies in the Halifax area. I am also enclosing a couple of covers of the book that has just been published which covers the case very well. We are hoping that A Pair of Trindles and Red Herring bookstores will order some for sale. ~~If you know the folks there you might encourage them.~~ We have already informed them of the availability of the book at 40% discount 5 copies or more. Perhaps you are in a position to approach the biggest and most commercially effective stores. The book is being handled by a distributor called Beatty and Church but they are somewhat slow in getting their catalogue out. It is already being sold in the Toronto and Montreal outlets of Classic Books and the Toronto Coles outlet called the World's Biggest Bookstore, and doing not badly. We have a strong interest period until the McDonald Commission report comes down sometime in March.

As for the case itself. The Canadian Civil Liberties Assoc- is joining us in the appeal before the Ontario Courts. The federal judges have not yet given their judgement but as you know our lawyers are prepared to take it to the Supreme Court. Support is still coming in primarily from the unions---the Quebec government employees and from NDP ridings---Skeena in BC and Oriolle Park in the Toronto area.

Looking forward to hear more from you. We thought the listing of supporters was quite masterful---individuals regardless of rank or organization alphabetically. We will try to better next time.

sincerely


Ross Dowson

pardon the typing-- I have just come in from the CUPE hospital workers picket line.

BOOKS

Punish the police criminals and their bosses!

Alastair McColl *Editor of The Peak*
Simon Fraser U

DOWSON VS RCMP is a book that cannot be ignored. It is a little red book which comes with a long list of people who have contributed to the "Socialist Rights Defence Fund" (set up to help Ross Dowson finance his slander suit against the RCMP). Among the supporters are Noam Chomsky, Jessica Mitford, Benjamin Spock, Margaret Lawrence, Pierre Burton, Margaret Atwood, Svend Robinson, Dr. James J. Endicott and hundreds of others whose names appear in microscopic print.

Dowson vs RCMP
 Published in Canada by Forward Publications, Toronto

I felt a slight twinge of suspicion about 10 pages into the book, though, and started to wonder who was the author. No author is listed on the cover although most of the book consists of articles by Dowson, reprinted from a Toronto publication called *Forward*. The problem is the book appears to be set up to discuss Dowson and his case in the third person. For example, the first chapter is set up as an "Interview with Ross Dowson." By the end of the section we discover Dowson was the author of the article as well as the interviews. Other chapters are actually transcripts of testimony given to various Royal Commissions by Dowson. In these, Dowson answers questions put to him by his own lawyer, but none from people who might have been less sympathetic to his case.

It seems like a bit of a cheap trick if you assume (as seems reasonable from the book's appearance) that it is a more or less impartial analysis of Dowson's case. By the end, though, it becomes clear that the book is actually more of a report by Dowson to his supporters. The publishers deserve a rap on the knuckles for not making that obvious at the outset.

The publishers must have had their problems too, of course. The book covers events in the case up to late in December 1980. That means there was probably very little time to get the thing compiled, produced, printed and distributed before it became old news. There was not much time either for research or thoughtful analysis.

The book should be read as a sort of well organized clipping file, or a more comprehensive news letter. The typesetting mistakes and overlarge headlines support that impression. It is, after all, a sort of 'underground book,' a few steps beyond the typed, mimeographed and stapled varieties.

Nevertheless, it is a book which deserves to be taken seriously. It deals with a problem which affects all Canadians one way or another, and one we will probably be struggling with for the next few years.

On December 9, 1977, in the Ontario legislature, Attorney-General Roy McMurtry released a statement confirming that the RCMP had been "investigating" certain member of the New Democratic Party between 1971 and 1973. The RCMP had identified the League for Socialist Action, along with some former members of the Communist Party of Canada and the Canadian Trotskyist Movement as "subversive elements who had penetrated the NDP through the Waffle in order to gain more respectability, credibility and influence."

Subversives were, "persons whom the Solicitor-General of Canada, The Honorable Francis Fox alleg[e]d 'would tend to promote changes brought on by violent and undemocratic means.'"

The Waffle was a left wing nationalist faction of the NDP. Because many of its goals were in line with more radical groups, a variety of socialist groups joined the NDP. The League for Socialist Action was one of these. Many of its members joined on the direction from its leader, Ross Dowson. Later, the NDP dumped the Waffle because its radical image had become a political liability.

After McMurtry's statement, Dowson filed a slander suit against the RCMP claiming \$50,000 in special damages and \$450,000 in general punitive and exemplary damages. As leader of the ISA and one of the leading proponents of Trotskyism in Canada, he said he felt

obliged to respond to the RCMP allegations that Trotskyist ideas are subversive. Although the action has to be framed in the form of a personal suit, what is really at stake, he said, is "the right to hold dissenting views and in particular the legitimacy and legality of socialist views." When the case finally comes to trial, "...the entire principles and program of revolutionary socialism will be evidence," and "the court will have to decide whether Trotskyism as an ideology, is subversive, and therefore illegal."

On December 27, 1979, Judge Campbell Grant dismissed major portions of Dowson's suit, ruling that the RCMP's statements were made as an extension of parliamentary proceedings between high government officials and therefore immune to suit. But he allowed the matter to go on to trial because the RCMP statements had been repeated on other occasions. As of the printing of the book, that decision is under appeal by both Dowson and the RCMP.

By itself, Dowson's case probably wouldn't have attracted much attention beyond radical left circles. But with the release of the McDonald Commission report on RCMP "dirty tricks" his case has suddenly become a *cause célèbre*. As the only action in progress against the RCMP's own subversion of civil rights, it has become the focal point of protest. This is probably why the book was produced; it places Dowson's experience in the context of organized and widespread persecution of left wing organizations by the RCMP.

On April 20, 1979, the McDonald Commission released a 750 page report outlining the secret RCMP "Operation Checkmate." According to testimony by RCMP Director-General John Starnes, Operation Checkmate was to come into play "...where it was clearly seen that the purpose of an organization or individuals were at cross purposes with the maintenance of domestic stability." The aim of the operation was to disrupt "subversive groups," create confusion in their ranks, discredit their leadership, and programs, all with the purpose of turning their energies inward, as much as possible, rather than outward to the community.

Since in many cases, the "target" groups could not be charged on legal grounds, to carry out their disruption campaign the RCMP had to resort, as the Commission discovered, to slander, fraud, public and private mischief, attempted assault, forgery, threatening bodily harm, burglary, vandalism and other illegal acts. Starnes told the Commission there was "an inherent contradiction" between the RCMP responsibilities to be discharged, and staying inside the law. It had become necessary, in his words, "to develop novel means."

Operation Checkmate involved five months of meticulous planning and used hundreds of constables. The RCMP carried out as many as 10 raids per week including the burglary of files from the Agence Presse de Liberation du Quebec, circulating forged letters through the League for Socialist Action, and physically intimidating leaders of various unnamed political organizations.

Operation Checkmate was only one in a series of secret harassment operations from 1969 to 1977. In 1977 when public pressure started to mount for an inquiry into RCMP activities, the files for these operations were destroyed.

**"What is really at stake
 is the right to hold
 dissenting views and in
 particular the legitimacy
 and legality of socialist
 views..."**

Feb 4/81



As Dowson points out, we may never know the full extent of the RCMP's criminal activities. And there has never been any official direction for the RCMP to stop the secret operations. On the contrary, a 1977 gun licensing bill included provisions allowing mail opening and phone tapping for long periods without notification.

In Dowson's analysis of the report, all the groups "investigated" by the RCMP had one thing in common: adherence in some form to the Marxist body of ideas. He says that in their testimony, even the RCMP brass didn't think the target groups were agents of foreign governments, or posed an immediate danger to public order. Their only crime was to harbour "dangerous thoughts."

The RCMP's real objective, Dowson concludes, was to maintain the status quo. His suit, then, is "conducted to help end the situation where government can direct and prompt the RCMP to brand groups as subversive, and act against them, and by implication the Canadian people as a whole of their civil rights and the possibility of making social changes as in their democratic wisdom they see fit to do."

Dowson's problem is that wide sections of the Canadian people probably agree with the RCMP. There is probably a strong feeling in this country that Trotskyism and other left wing groups are actually subversive and should be disrupted for the sake of national security. Trotskyism is a philosophy that, after all, still holds to the idea of promoting world revolution.

In a recent conference on "Socialism in the 1980s" in Vancouver, delegates said socialists and socialist ideas were suffering in the new conservative wave across Canada and the U.S. And that fear was strengthened last week when president Reagan said in his first post inaugural news conference that Kremlin leaders were willing "to lie, to cheat, to commit any crime" to promote world revolution.

Dowson is obviously aware of the opposition to his ideas, and he spends a large part of the book trying to answer these kinds of charges. This is the most interesting part of the book because it is one of the few serious modern attempts to legitimize revolutionary socialism.

Dowson's defense of his ideas comes in the form of testimony to the Krever Commission Inquiry into the Confidentiality of Health Records in Ontario. His lawyer asked him to comment on the fact that the League for Socialist Action was the Canadian section of the Fourth International, a Paris-based Marxist organization "which ordered various sections in the various countries to undertake certain acts in order to achieve the ends of socialist revolution by any means necessary."



The Fourth International, Dowson said, had no wealth, no resources which it could disperse as largesse among its member sections, and no authority to enforce its directives. In contrast to the system of 'democratic centralism,' the Fourth International was a loose 'sister association' of autonomous groups. Its primary purpose was to deal with world problems through collective exchange of ideas and experiences. Since it was a voluntary association, no motion adopted by the International could be binding on any of the member sections. If the central executives ever tried to enforce their directives, there would be an immediate split.

In 1963, the Fourth International did adopt a motion by majority vote for guerrilla warfare as a means of effecting socialist revolution. The concept was formed first by socialist revolutionaries in Latin American countries (like Che Guevara) who were faced with authoritarian military governments and no democratic forms of expression for the revolutionary parties. Guerrilla warfare was seen as the last resort and necessary for the revolution in those countries.

Although that motion was accepted by a majority vote, the Canadian section, under Dowson, rejected that position. The strategy would not be appropriate for Canada because the necessary conditions did not exist here. In Dowson's opinion, "...the concept of guerrilla warfare is a tactic which might under certain circumstances be adopted--by the persons who are going to carry it out, and not be told to do so." Of course, the guerrilla warfare motion was not binding on the Canadian section. In other words, members of the League for Socialist Action have never been *agents provocateurs*, and the idea of a conspiracy to promote world revolution "by any means necessary" is ridiculous given the nature of the Fourth International, says Dowson.

Yes, the Fourth International is committed to world revolution, says Dowson, but as he interprets socialist philosophy it means something rather different than what we are given to understand by other than socialist sources. The revolution is necessarily a democratic one, started by the vast majority of people. Its goal is not to replace the old government with another which will perpetuate the old class antagonisms. To be "revolutionary" in the socialist sense, the uprising must *eliminate* class lines in society. Quoting from Marx, he says, "if the working class organises as a class, and by means of revolution makes itself the ruling class and sweeps away the old conditions of production, then it will along with these conditions have swept away the conditions for the existence of class antagonism and of classes generally, and will thereby have abolished its own supremacy as a class."

See "Dowson", page 12

POLICE

Dowson calls for dissolution of RCMP

Continued from page 9

Whether this is actually what has happened in the various socialist experiments around the world in the last 100 years is debatable. But from Dowson's point of view, the ideas support his claim that revolutionary socialism is legitimate in a society which likes to call itself democratic.

The last part of Dowson's argument is that the revolution does not have to be violent. He says that when the revolution comes to Canada, it will be achieved by free elections, probably through the NDP.

The idea of violent revolution is a confusing one, Dowson admits, and he spends some time explaining the socialist viewpoint. A basic precept of Marxism and Trotskyism is that violence will inevitably accompany revolution, but the important distinction is that the revolution will not necessarily be accomplished by violence. In fact, says Dowson, most socialist revolutions have been remarkably non-violent. Violence occurs when the bourgeois counter-revolutionaries overstep the structures of democracy to maintain power.

In Canada, violence broke out only several weeks after the Riel Rebellion when the RCMP marched out from eastern Canada. Again the actual Winnipeg General Strike was peaceful until the military stepped in to disperse the crowds by force. During the so-called October Crisis in 1970, it was the Trudeau government which suspended all civil rights and called out the military to deal with the FLQ.

The socialist would prefer the realization of a socialist society by peaceful means, says Dowson, but "no ruling class heretofore has ever left the stage of history without resorting to the most desperate and violent struggle, even threatening to take all society down with it... There is no reason to believe that the capitalist class in North America who resist modest union demands so bitterly... faced with the loss of the very source of their wealth would depart peacefully from the scene should the revolution

Continued from page 9

But one important fact still remains, that is, the inadequacy of procedures for internal investigations of citizen complaints about police wrong-doing.

Another critical component within the police system is the Police Commission. Brian Grosman quoted a journalist as having once commented that "there's a tendency of the police commission to sweep controversy surrounding police brutality under the rug. They don't want a scandal developing as a result of publicizing police misbehaviour."

This remark certainly does not appear new to most readers. Especially in the United States, for many years there has been suggestion that civilian review boards be created due to the unsatisfactory performance perceived by the public, particularly by the minority groups. Since the Johnson case the blacks in Toronto have been putting more pressure on provincial governments to set up a review board to be manned by civilians.

Similar requests have been made by minority groups in the United States and several cities have adopted the idea with varying success.

The Ontario government plans to set up a compromise system; a civilian review board to review unsatisfactory investigation by the public bureau of the police force.

Another more important factor contributing to the ongoing problem of police brutality is the relatively supportive attitudes and response from both the judicial authorities and the citizenry at-large. Generally speaking, police brutality cases usually take the form of assault and battery. The courts very often scrutinize such complaints in the light of the presumption that the officer acted properly and exerted only the necessary and 'minimum' force under the circumstances. In more aggravated cases plaintiffs will recover. However, judges and juries are reluctant to 'second guess' the police officer who usually demonstrates that he behaved reasonably in a trying situation.

In the most often cited case *R. v. Wray* (1970), the court decision not only condoned the police using threats and assault to obtain evidence but went further to recognize such obtained evidence as legal and admissible.

In a lawsuit for damage for false arrest and assault, *Scott v. The Queen* (1974), the plaintiff was awarded \$200 for false arrest but attributed the assault as provoked by plaintiff's resisting the illegal arrest.

The old tort remedies such as assault, battery, false

revolutionary aspirations of the masses rally a majority in parliamentary election."

In the end, Dowson calls on Canadians to dissolve the RCMP. From his point of view this is necessary, but it is unlikely. What is possible though, is that Canadians demand that the RCMP stop their own subversive secret operations. Even if we disagree with Dowson on various points, it seems clear that his program is at least not subversive. He deserves, as do all Canadians, to express his beliefs without fear of police harassment.

imprisonment are available as weapons to be used by citizens against wrong-doing policemen, and if they are successful, according to the Police Act, R.S.O. 1970 c.351, subsection 24c.1, the municipal, police chief and the offending officer are all liable.

However, tort actions often require both time and money. And it is more often the deprived groups that lack these resources.

Besides some innovative proposals like the setting up of the civilian review board and better education for officers, the process for screening new applicants to the force is equally important to spot and eliminate racial bias, sadism and other serious prejudice by psychological tests.

However, these tests are highly subjective and more often than not, manipulated by the examiner or so-called expert.

Another area of improvement in the recruiting process is to attract proportionate minorities from the deprived groups. It has been suggested that the most effective means for developing understanding and curbing practices offensive to minority groups is to have the participation of these groups.

This may perhaps be the answer to the fact that 21.4% of the Chinese Canadians rated their police as 'bad' in the report on *British Columbians' attitudes and experiences relevant to the police, law and crime*, despite the fact they are one of the largest minority groups in the province.

Before the Canadian police forces adopt the mentality that "we are the cops and law and whatever we do is justified," the court should adopt a more liberal approach to assure the public of the court's position. As a result, more cases would be brought before the court. But increasing cases do not necessarily signify that there are more abuses or worse problems.

While internal investigation lacks necessary procedure, and credibility to be widely accepted by the public, and compounded by the police's reluctance to accept a review board, the only possible resort for controlling police brutality and racism seems to lie in the hands of the courts; which is what it is at present.

It is time perhaps our government considered introducing a bill similar to the Federal statute Title 18 and not hesitate to prosecute any offender under the Canadian Bill of Rights.

One man's quiet fight for justice

Ross Dowson is an unlikely crusader. A slight balding man who favours loud polyester

jackets, his stories go on and on, interrupted by a stream of anecdotes which only slowly makes its way back to his original topic.

But the battle this crusader is waging from his small Church Street bookstore makes him a humble but important one. For what Dowson is fighting for is no less than the right of Canadians to freely speak their minds, without fearing government retribution.

In a federal court of law, judges are now pondering a question that Dowson has worked for years to raise: Should members of the Royal Canadian Mounted Police be held responsible for slandering innocent citizens in official communication with the government?

Dowson is adamant that they must be; that the government should be as accountable as the people for breaking the nation's law. Along with lawyers Harry Kopyto, Paul Copeland and others, he's spent hundreds of hours over the past four years trying to prove it in the courts.

Dowson is, to be sure, no friend of those currently in power. Spurred on by strong convictions, he's been making their lives more difficult for years. By his own admission, he led the first wartime strike of enlisted men in the history of the Canadian armed forces. Stationed in Niagara-on-the-Lake in a time of scarce civilian labour, his platoon was put to work on the local train tracks. Dowson soon refused the work, and the other men followed suit.

Since the war he's been no less active in promoting his views. He's staged a number of unsuccessful bids for the mayoralty of Toronto, receiving some 24,000 votes in the 1949 race.

More recently, he's been a book seller, pamphleteer and journalist, writing prolifically for *Forward*, a small leftist newspaper that appears a few times a year.

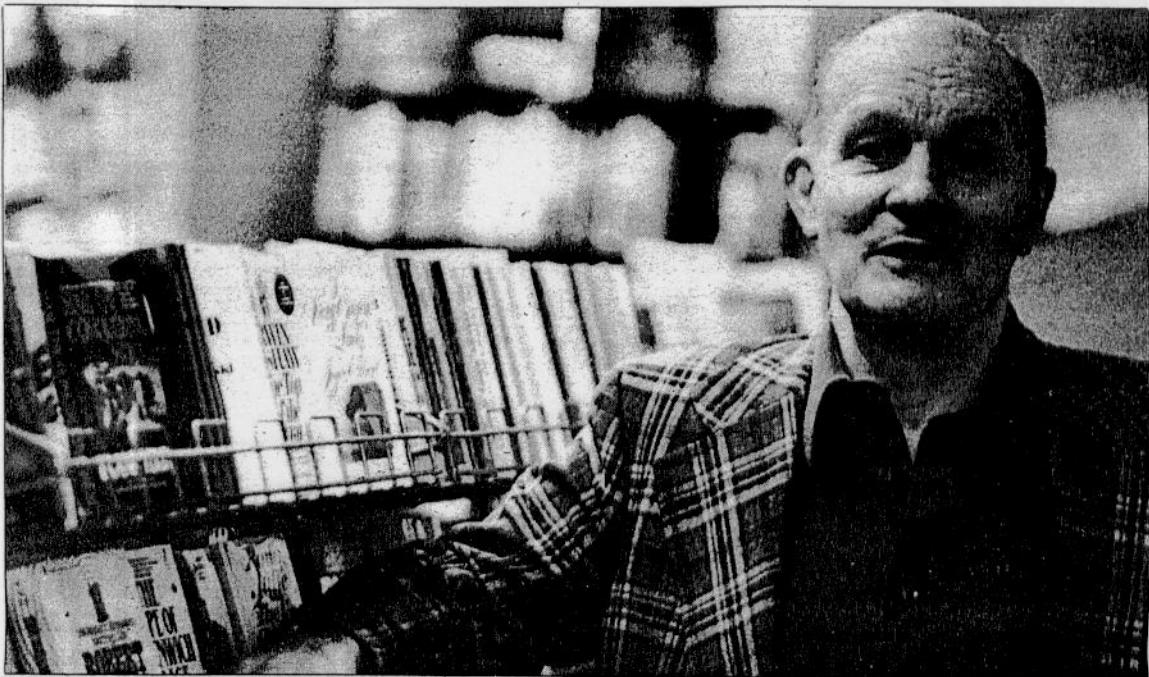
He's also been a leader of the League for Socialist Action, and it's his involvement with that group that first brought him into contact with the mounties.

The League, as Dowson describes it, was "a leftist organization fundamentally oriented to building a left wing in the NDP." At its peak it had a few hundred members, who supported the New Democrats as the political arm of the union movement. "When the unions made the move to create a political party, we supported it," Dowson recalls. "That's where we considered the main task—to build socialist ideology in working people—was to be accomplished."

Dowson still supports it, and the flag of *Forward* bears witness to that support. Right above its name, the paper announces the motto: "For the NDP and Socialism."

After a life-time of participating in radical causes, it's ironic that it was his connection with the NDP that served as the RCMP's excuse for their interest in him and his colleagues.

The force's curiosity first came to light in the winter of 1977, when Stephen Lewis, then leader of the Ontario New Democrats, asked the government about allegations



Story and photo by Jonathan Mann

that the RCMP had investigated the NDP from 1971 to 1973. Roy McMurtry, then as now the province's Attorney General, answered the question in a meeting of the legislature on December 9, using information he received two days earlier from acting Assistant Deputy Attorney General R.M. McLeod.

While McMurtry stated that "The RCMP have not conducted an investigation of the activities of the New Democratic Party," he went on to admit that "Between 1970 and 1973 the RCMP did conduct investigations into the activities of certain members of the Waffle group while it was still a part of the NDP."

McMurtry went on to explain the rationale behind the investigation when he told the assembled parliamentarians that "The RCMP investigation of certain members of the Waffle group established that subversive elements penetrated the NDP through the Waffle in order to gain more respectability, credibility and influence."

that "Now I can do something about the RCMP. I thought 'There's going to be a hearing. They have named me in essence, and now I have the responsibility to defend myself and all the victims of the RCMP."

Kopyto launched a slander suit in the Federal Court on December 15, 1977, demanding damages of \$500,000. More than two years later, on December 27, 1979, the court announced its ruling. McMurtry and the officers who gave him his information are protected from charges of slander by the absolute privilege which applies to all statements made by high officers of state.

The decision disappointed Dowson. "I can appreciate that the government has to have immunity from certain things," he explains, but says of the RCMPers who passed on the information, "they're not parliamentarians, they're officers of law."

Undaunted, Kopyto has appealed the decision, arguing before the court that McMurtry's subsequent repetition of the force's allegations to the press is granted no such immunity.

The case, now some four years old, is before the Federal Court of Appeal. "The decision is expected anytime," according to Kopyto.

Sitting in the basement storeroom of Forward Books, Dowson hardly seems worth the RCMP's attention. Admittedly, he does call himself a revolutionary (although his physical appearance would suggest that he's not a very fearsome one).

For Dowson, being a revolutionary doesn't mean wanting to burn parliament down, or kill innocent citizens. Instead, it distinguishes him from the New Democratic Party leadership, whom he insists are merely reform-minded socialists. While they want to improve the present system, Dowson says he wants change it.

He speaks of revolution the way a scientist might mention the Copernican revolution or a hackneyed writer, the sexual revolution. While both in their

time were feared by some part of society, neither spilled any blood. Instead, they marked a radically different approach. This is just what Dowson is pushing for. "Révolution? It means fundamental change," he explains.

lot to do with Dowson and his group—indirectly. They were always trying to take over a riding organization or two, and once they had, they would pass all kinds of ungodly resolutions in the name of the NDP," he recalls with a chuckle. "In effect, Dowson had been a political pain in the ass for me."

None of this however, detracts from Harney's support for Dowson's case. "Just because he was a Trotskyite and a political pain in the ass, doesn't mean that he should be harassed by the police. Still a member of the NDP's Federal Council, he feels that "I suppose I'm being a pain in the ass for the party, and so I rather like the idea of protecting Dowson's right to be one."

Harney speaks with conviction about the value of dissent to democratic society, something which he says too many Canadians fail to recognize. "It gets a little scary when a group of people holding radical views will be subjected to what appears to be harassment and mischief of a very serious nature, because the police in this nation have decided that these people are subversives."

McMurtry didn't explicitly identify these "subversive elements." But just

before entering into his discussion of the force's investigation, he did take the trouble to mention "the leaders of the League for Socialist Action" as "persons outside the NDP" who joined its ranks.

Attorney Harry Kopyto contends that that sort of guilt by association constitutes slander, and established legal practice agrees. Kopyto explains that "In slander law, it doesn't matter if it's direct or by innuendo."

Dowson, never a big fan of the men in scarlet, wasn't surprised by the hint that he was among those investigated. But he saw McMurtry's comments as an opportunity. He recalls feeling

"I've never advocated violence. I'm for presenting

our ideas with conviction, dynamism, aggressiveness," he says. Voting is once every four years. In the meantime you and I are going to join that demonstration of hospital workers. We have to make propaganda, agitate, organize. That's what I'm for."

John Harney is a former NDP member of Parliament for Scarborough West. Now a professor of Canadian Studies at Atkinson College, he has lent his name to the Socialist Rights Defense Fund, an organization which is rallying support for Dowson's case.

Harney is just one of seventeen York professors to sign the fund's statement of purpose, and just one of 50 academics to do so. These educators have been joined by Pierre Burton, Margaret Atwood, Svend Robinson, Noam Chomsky and dozens of others, in saying that "We wish to indicate our support as concerned civil libertarians for the suit initiated by Mr. Ross Dowson, against the Royal Canadian Mounted Police..." Though we may not necessarily agree with the political views of Mr. Dowson, we do believe that the real test of a democracy is its ability to tolerate and respect individuals whose views may not coincide with those of the majority..."

Chatting between classes in his small book-lined office overlooking the York campus, Harney remembers Dowson from the late sixties, when Harney served as Provincial Secretary of the Ontario NDP. "In those days I had quite a

And so Dowson awaits the court's decision; spending his days writing,

selling books, continuing his struggle.

While the final decision is uncertain, his commitment to the case is not. "I want my case to inspire others. The worst thing that can happen is that people accept this. I want to clip the wings of the RCMP. I want justice."

Between Ross Dowson and the RCMP, a short chronicle of the history of Dowson's case, is available at Forward Books, and other Toronto bookstores.

(these works) have been recorded since the recording industry is not concerned with portraying Black history as much as with making a profit.

The struggles in Africa in general and South Africa in particular have always been important to "jazz" musicians. In 1947 Duke Ellington wrote *The Liberian Suite* to commemorate that country's centennial as a republic. In the early '50s saxophonist Sonny Rollins recorded "Airegin" (Nigeria spelled backwards). In 1960 drummer Max Roach and Abbey Lincoln (Aminata Moseka) recorded "Tears for Johannesburg". Fifteen years later Roach and Archie Shepp teamed up for an album that included the piece "South Africa '76."

West Indians and Africans have as much to learn from musicians like

Roach and Shepp as African-Americans have to learn from musicians like Bob Marley or Feli AniKulapo Kuti.

African-Americans have a rich and revolutionary musician tradition but don't hold your breath and wait to hear it on the radio. It is not in the interest of the system to promote Black Classical Music (better known as Jazz) because of its message.

In the 1980s African people will have to develop their own communications systems. Once again the words of Archie Shepp are in order: "We should begin to educate ourselves out of a Top Ten mentality, we should begin to take a long, serious look at our music, not only the music created here in the United States, but created throughout the African-American, the Pan-African world." ■



Bob Marley in concert

JEFF HOUSE

DOWSON vs RCMP

They've admitted forgeries and break-ins but RCMP men have yet to be convicted.

In 1972, the French film *Special Section* played several smaller theatres in Toronto and Montréal. The subject of that film was a special branch of the French judicial system set up to deal with "extraordinary", that is to say, political, cases. While audiences received instruction in the methods by which the powers-that-be in France can divert inquiry away from their skullduggery, a parallel real-life drama was being played out in both cities. Under cover of night, the RCMP Security Service was burglarizing the offices of the Parti Québécois, and maintaining a "presence" within the New Democratic Party.

When these actions became known in 1977, the Force justified the behaviour of its operatives on the basis that "subversives" had infiltrated both parties, including Trotskyists and ex-Communists. To be sure, claimed Solicitor-General Francis Fox, it was not the NDP "per se", but its Waffle wing which was the reason for RCMP surveillance. As the full panoply of abuses became known, the RCMP counter-theory of self-justification also became known: "subversives" are not protected by law, despite what the law may state; the RCMP may, at its pleasure designate anyone it chooses as a subversive; the RCMP need not inform the political

authorities supervising it of its decisions in this regard, and there is no review of RCMP designations in this realm.

As a result of the revelation of RCMP crimes, the McDonald and Keable Commissions were created, in Ottawa, and Quebec City, respectively. In Toronto, Attorney-General Roy McMurtry released an RCMP statement claiming that the NDP had been infiltrated by members of the League for Socialist Action, a now-defunct Trotskyist group. Within a week, Ross Dowson, the one time leader of the group, sued in Federal Court for slander, claiming \$500,000 damages on the basis that his reputation, and that of the group, had been defamed. While the Dowson affair is, in some ways peripheral to the RCMP affair as a whole, the Dowson lawsuit has exposed several additional instances of RCMP wrongdoing, strengthened the spine of the Krever Commission on the Confidentiality of Health Records in Ontario, and exposed a few more of those special sections of the Criminal Code which are called upon in "extraordinary" situations.

Covering for the Security Service

It is a measure of Dowson's persistence that all this has occurred. The Liberal government successfully decapitated the renegade Keable Commission in the

Courts, finally beating the Commission in the (Federally-appointed) Supreme Court of Canada. The McDonald Commission, made up of various Liberal party apparatchiks, then began its ever-so-lackadaisical study of RCMP abuses. The Commission was so concerned to learn the facts that in its first Toronto hearings it published a Notice stating: that it wished to hear "briefs as to the laws, policies and procedures which should govern the RCMP." Not, that is, what the RCMP may have done to individuals and organizations in Toronto, but what it ought to have been doing. A local lawyer, Paul Copeland, tried in vain to get the Commission to hear the facts concerning disruptions of his clients and himself which he had reason to believe stemmed from the Security Service of the RCMP. The Commission put him off, so Copeland went to Court, charging that the Commissioners were biased in law. Over thirty separate allegations of bias were made, and the Commissioners denied none of them. The day was saved in The Federal Court, however, when Judge Alex Cattenach declared that it did not matter whether the Commissioners were biased or not, as they were only collecting facts, not making "judicial" decisions. Thus it is, that three years later, the McDonald Commission continues its tasks, solemnly collecting information, and, just coincidentally, shielding the members of the secret police from the judicial process.

DOWSON VS. RCMP

In the course of Dowson's slander suit, Dowson himself turned several documents over to the Krever Commission. These documents included confidential psychiatric information on members of the LSA that had been distributed by someone wishing to disrupt the group. Despite the fact that the Krever Commission had been informed by the RCMP that all of its dirty tricks concerning health records confidentiality were on the table, Dowson persisted in believing that it was the work of the RCMP. As we now know, he was right. Krever's report stated that the RCMP lawyer, Arthur Pennington, made incorrect statements to the Commission, and further that "Mr. Pennington's statement was made after I had been assured that I had had complete disclosure from the RCMP. The RCMP and the Solicitor-General (of Canada) must have known that this representation was untrue." As Dowson put it to the Krever Commission: "the purpose of this whole incident (the psychiatric information spread about to discredit an LSA member) was primarily to create an atmosphere that the League for

Socialist Action and other like organizations on the left are, if not in law illegal, they are *in fact illegal*"...to implant the idea that "there is a price to join those organizations. That's what these dirty tricks are about — to tell people there is a price you are going to pay."

The price to be paid, of course, is that the potential member becomes a valid target of the special police; not for him or her the normal protection of the law. Wrong-doing against them is largely permitted, and their rights evaporate.

McMurtry's special powers

The Dowson case has revealed one final special practice. The English common law has always given the citizen the right to make a complaint concerning criminal activity. One presents evidence of criminal activity to a justice of the peace, a judicial officer who, if convinced that the circumstances warrant it, has the power to initiate criminal process against a wrong-doer. In April of 1980, Dowson and his lawyers attend-

ed before a justice of the peace to charge the Mounties with the forgeries they had already admitted. On four separate occasions, the Ontario Attorney-General's office asked that the hearing before Mr. Justice Allen, be adjourned so they could prepare. Finally, on October 30, Roy McMurtry, A.G. of Ontario stayed, or stopped all proceedings, using, or rather, misusing, s. 508 of the Criminal Code. That section, one of the panoply of special powers reserved to the Attorney-General, allows him to stop criminal proceedings against anyone he chooses to protect, "after an indictment has been found". McMurtry chose to operate as a one-man McDonald Commission in keeping the Force sacrosanct in Ontario.

At this writing, the McMurtry stay is being appealed up the judicial ladder. Eight years after the criminal acts occurred, and four years after they became publicly known, no police officer has been convicted of any offence or spent one minute in custody. Our "special sections" remain off limits, untouched by the criticism leveled against it. ■

DANIEL TSANG interviews WILLIAM SCHAAP and ELLEN RAY

NAMING NAMES

Covert Action Information Bulletin exposes CIA agents and so the U.S. Congress is out to stop them

photo: Dan Tsang



Editors Louis Wolf, Ellen Ray and William Schaap.

On September 17, 1980, the U.S. Senate Judiciary Committee rushed through a draft version of the "Intelligence Identities Protection Act", that would criminalize the disclosure of the identities of CIA and FBI covert operatives and officers, even when that information was gathered from public documents. Which could mean three years in jail, a \$10,000 fine — all for following the principles of the first Amendment. This was one of several versions that have come before Congress in the past four years. The urgency of this attempt betrayed the eagerness to pass it under the Democratic Administration. It didn't quite make it, but its imminent passage under Reagan seems a certainty.

Sections HR5615 and S2216 of the bill, and the controversial 501(c) portion, aim to prohibit only the alternative press from naming names — and are targeted at one publication in particular. *Covert Action Information Bulletin* is a bi-monthly periodical that exposes U.S. intelligence abuses and is notorious for revealing the identities of thousands of CIA agents in the U.S. and abroad.

The editors were in Toronto in September 1978, when they identified the U.S., CIA Station Chief in Ottawa as Stacy B. Hulse, Jr. Two days later, he conveniently left Canada. In its June, 1980 issue, *CAIB* reported that John Kenneth Knaus, attache to the U.S. embassy in Ottawa, seems to have been with the CIA for over 30 years, and is clearly Hulse's successor.

The day after the draft version of the bill was rushed through, Dan Tsang talked with Ellen Ray and William Schapp (two of the three editors of *CAIB*). This interview was conducted in their Washington offices.

THEY RIDE HORSES, DON'T THEY?

Historical musings on the
Canadian state and its agents

... With a perspective like this Sawatsky's independent investigations are little more than a subtle prop for the secret state, a liberal chronicle of "dirty tricks" and the historical evolution of an "intelligence" system that avoids the central political question raised by the men in the shadows he has followed into the late 1970s. We must turn to other sources for this kind of political questioning. And it is here that we must, as part of the left, admit our own failures. Only minor rumblings of discontent have been heard from our quarter. In the pages of *En Lutte / In Struggle* protests have been lodged against RCMP activities, while the Revolutionary Workers League has produced a collection of news articles and documents presented to the McDonald Commission that defines the RCMP as "the real subversives." The only sustained political work to come out of the revelations of the RCMP counter-subversive and illegal activities, however, has been the principled and politically praiseworthy efforts of Ross Dowson and the Socialist Rights Defence Fund. Dowson, a leading figure in the history of Canadian Trotskyism and former member of the League for Socialist Action, has filed a slander suit against RCMP allegations that he and other Waffle supporters and members were subversives prone to acts of violence. In the course of this suit's many legal setbacks, Dowson and the Toronto-based Forward group of which he is a part have publicized one RCMP violation of civil rights after another, including the keeping of files on social democratic trade unionists and the acquisition and misuse of supposedly private health records.

Perhaps the most startling revelation is the secret history of a series of operations—Tent Peg (1969-71), Oddball (1971-72), and Checkmate (1972-73)—alluded to in the heavily censored material released by the McDonald Commission in late April 1980, and hence not covered in the exposés discussed above. The Praxis break-in in Toronto was no doubt a part of the early history of this assault on the extra-parliamentary left. Files from these operations have been destroyed, and details survive only on Checkmate, on fourteen of its illustrative cases of "dirty tricks". Appropriately named, this RCMP operation "targeted" a series of individuals and organizations, none of which had committed any crimes, for intensive surveillance and harassment. To undermine such officially classified subversives, the RCMP resorted to a wide range of illegal tactics. Informers were secured and placed, letters and income tax returns were forged, intimidation was widely practiced, and mail was obtained fraudulently

by Bryan D. Palmer

and later destroyed. As Dowson concludes, these were not just "dirty tricks" but part of a "highly organized campaign... to harass, disrupt, and if possible to destroy a number of completely legitimate organizations innocent of violating even the slightest law or regulation governing this country." Such actions necessitate counter actions if we are to preserve any semblance of democratic life...

What is distressing is the extent to which the left has been consumed by complacency in the face of this development and the consequent erosion of basic human rights that has paralleled the rise of the secret state. Only the dogged persistence of Ross Dowson has broken through inaction to materially challenge the RCMP's illegal actions and repressive orientation. The civil libertarians are in fact carrying the ball, defending Ian Adams and circulating petitions against RCMP violations of the law. Among Marxists and anarchists, however, one fears that the state is already too well known to be opposed, for rather than drawing outrage from such quarters, RCMP activities merely confirm an understanding that the state functions as an agent to stifle opposition to capital. This may well be partly true, but such partial intellectual understanding disarms the left, breeding a pernicious acquiescence in the drift towards statism. . . .

from TODAY January 1st 1982

Nevertheless, six historians have agreed to evaluate the main news events of our time: Bryan Palmer, a historian of working class culture at Simon Fraser University and author of *A Culture in Conflict*, a study of skilled workers in Hamilton in the late 19th century.....



Bryan Palmer

Bryan Palmer sees increasing "statism" as a trend: through the growth of information technology, governments keep tabs on people as never before. Palmer found the reports on police activity by the McDonald and Keable commissions to be historic events because they showed a drift toward an explicitly managed society. "These revelations may stand as a moment when Canadians could have opposed this drift and didn't."

Supreme Court blocks attempt to sue RCMP for slander

The Supreme Court of Canada has turned down an appeal by Ross Dowson to pursue his half-million dollar suit against the RCMP for slandering as subversives the now defunct League for Socialist Action (LSA) and himself as its leader, along with un-named "ex-communists", all members of the New Democratic Party.

Judges Laskin, Estey and Lamer heard the appeal, presented by Toronto lawyer Harry Kopyto, with the aid of Carl Brand, before the Supreme Court of Canada in early October. The court upheld the ruling made early in May by the Federal Court of Appeal that the statements complained of were made on an occasion of "absolute privilege".

Dowson's suit was launched in the fall of 1977, when the attorney-general of Ontario admitted in the Ontario legislature that the NDP had been under investigation and subject to surveillance by the RCMP, the nature and scope of which is not known to this day. At the same time he uttered the slanderous statements prepared by top RCMP officials, and had them issued to the public in the form of a press release.

Dowson's suit was the only civil action against the RCMP arising out of the shocking revelations of its widespread harassment and violations of the civil rights of a wide number of individuals and social organizations of completely legitimate dissent in the 60s and 70s, as affirmed by the report of the royal commission headed by Mr. Justice D.C. McDonald. The allegation that its targeted victims were "subversives" was used by the RCMP to justify its widespread illegalities.

Blocked since its inception from even reaching the preliminary stage of examination of discovery preparatory for a trial, now, with the Supreme Court's ruling, the Dowson suit has no further course to pursue within the Canadian judicial system. However, in a statement to the press, Dowson said that besides its civil rights aspects involving the legitimacy of socialist thought, the matter is of crucial legal importance since the court rulings not only uphold immunity of statements made by government leaders, but have

extended immunity from lawsuits for defamation to a police force.

Ironically, Dowson observed, the RCMP itself, in the testimony of its director-general before the McDonald Commission, backed off from claiming its targets were "subversives" as defined in the Criminal Code by admitting that the term was used "for want of a better word . . . where it was clearly seen that the purpose of an organization or individuals were at cross-purposes with the maintenance of domestic stability".

Dowson announced that prominent organizations and individuals who have identified themselves with the Socialist Rights Defense Fund (SRDF), set up in support of the suit, are now being consulted to consider further actions. One proposal is to constitute a tribunal headed

by persons of repute which by hearing testimony presented under oath would give Dowson, and others with relevant testimony, an opportunity to present evidence which the Canadian judicial system has deprived them of articulating, and would render its own verdict before the people of Canada.

The SRDF has won the support of such eminent international personalities as Noam Chomsky, Jessica Mitford, Linus Pauling and Benjamin Spock. Among prominent Canadians are Margaret Atwood, Pierre Berton, Clayton Ruby and Grace Hartman, along with important organizations such as the Law Union of Ontario, the 10th Federal Convention of the New Democratic Party and district labour councils from St. John, New Brunswick to Victoria, British Columbia.

from

December 1981
2138 McIntyre Street
Regina, Saskatchewan
S4P 2R7

Briarpatch

Court action against ex RCMP officers

The former chairman of the League for Socialist Action, an organization targeted for RCMP "dirty tricks" under the code name Operation Checkmate in the early 1970s, has launched a Small Claims Court action against the two RCMP officers in charge of harassing this political group.

Ross Dowson's suit against former Assistant Commissioner Stanley Chisholm and Superintendent Ronald Yaworski, seeking damages for conspiracy to commit forgery and injurious falsehood, was launched in the Toronto Small Claims Court in order to ensure that a speedy trial would take place.

The claim alleges that the two ex-RCMP officers transmitted false messages to disrupt the political activities of the League for Socialist Action. Both officers testified before the McDonald Commission that they circulated unsigned letters within the organization in the early 1970s for the purpose of discrediting certain members and disrupting the political activity of the group.

An attempt by Mr. Dowson to lay criminal charges against the two ex-RCMP officers was blocked by Ontario's Attorney-General Roy McMurtry who entered a stay of an enquiry into the criminal charges in October 1980. That case, presently on appeal to the Supreme Court of Canada, is scheduled to be heard this fall.

In his claim, Dowson, suing on behalf of all former members of the organization, claimed that the letters, some of which were in French, were "motivated by malice against the Marxist and socialist views of the Plaintiff". Mr. Dowson alleges that the RCMP was out to injure him in his trade and that the phony letters were designed to isolate him and the organization and create friction between the Quebec and Anglophone members of the group.

The action could be heard as early as this summer, according to Mr. Dowson's lawyer, Harry Kopyto, and would be the first civil trial arising out of the RCMP's disruptive tactics against radical groups.

CONTRAST

from

Vol. 14 No. 24 June 18, 1982

1074 Bathurst Street, Tor. Ont M5R 3G9

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6 year-long
 Dowson's efforts to get a hearing, to defend himself against the charge of subversion and the actions taken against him and the LSA on the ~~question~~ assumption ~~of~~ of the truth of that charge has been blocked at every turn ----- from the Toronto Small Claims Court, through both the provincial and federal courts right up to the Supreme Court of Canada

In December 1977 Dowson launched a \$500,000 slander suit against the RCMP (the Queen) for their statement before the Ontario Legislature and in a release to the press in response to enquiries by then NDP leader Stephen Lewis as to whether the NDP has been subject to RCMP ~~haxaxmoxmox~~ investigation. In their statement the RCMP admitted to having investigated the NDP, justifying it on the grounds that the party's left-wing Waffle had invited LSAer and unnamed ex-Communists to join the party. The latter were defined as subversive-tending "to promote changes brought on by violent and undemocratic means..."

~~Slander~~ This suit was dismissed on the grounds that the statements by the RCMP are privileged causing Dowson to protest that the RCMP can label any person or organization subversive and subject them to violations of their civil rights with impunity

On April 25/1980, following RCMP admissions before the Royal Commission headed by Justice Krever, Dowson swore out charges against two top RCMP officers directing Operation Checkmate. After a series of blockages of the suit Attorney-General Roy McMurtry issued a stay of proceedings. McMurtry's stay of proceedings was upheld by the Supreme Court of Ontario.

Dowson appealed to the Supreme Court of Canada which after hearing the appeal on June 9, 1983 reserved judgement. It should be handed down any day now. Dowson initiated a suit in the Small Claims Court in Toronto against two RCMPers on May 24 1983. The RCMP attempted to block the suit before its going to trial. On August 11, 1983 Judge Zuker found in Dowson's favor. The RCMP immediately announced its decision to appeal Judge Zuker's decision before the Supreme Court of Ontario — Blocked again

On October 14 - The Supreme Court unanimously ruled that the Ontario Attorney General cannot block Dowson & Howard Buckender from proceeding to lay charges against the RCMP — & overturned a ruling of the Ontario Court of Appeal. Judge Allen will hear the charges on Tues Oct 25

(Sent on SRDF letterhead)

March 14, 1985

Wm. C. Thompson
secretary of the Hamilton & District Labour Council
1025 Barton Street East
Hamilton, Ont. L8L 3E3

Dear Sir and Brother

We received your letter with regards to the videotape RCMP on Trial only a matter of days ago, although it is dated Feb 22. Impossible to justify and ~~hand~~to explain - but in the hope that it will still be useful we are sending a copy along under separate cover registered mail

I think that it will measure up to the Rights Committees anticipations

sincerely

Harry Paine

We are sending you a copy from the master held by City TV. There is no trouble with making copies for wider circulation should anyone want to do so

Trotskyite gets day in court

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his client endured financial hardships after leaving his position with the League for Socialist Action. They are demanding restitution of \$3,000.

Later in the day, when Mr. Kopyto was unable to produce documents showing Mr. Dowson's income from jobs and unemployment insurance, defence lawyer John Laskin rebuked him for not being ready. Mr. Laskin was angry that the trial could not be completed yesterday as anticipated.

Former RCMP officers testified yesterday that they tried in 1972, through Operation Checkmate, to incite distrust of the league's executive secretary because he was allegedly preaching violence. John Riddell had recently assumed the position from Mr. Dowson, who became the organization's chairman.

Ronald Yaworski, who was in charge of the RCMP's special operations group in the security service in 1972, acknowledged that he helped draft the letters that the RCMP hoped would pave the way for Mr. Dowson's return to the league's helm.

Mr. Riddell "presented a greater security risk at the head of the organization than Mr. Dowson," said Mr. Yaworski, now director of operations for the Ottawa region for the Canadian Security Intelligence Service.

The RCMP's actions against the Trotskyites were reported regularly to the federal Government, he said. In fact, the RCMP was acting on a Cabinet directive asking it to identify

Communists and Fascists in Canada, he said.

Mr. Dowson, a former mayoralty candidate in Toronto, formed the League for Socialist Action in 1961 from a socialist movement he underwrote with his veteran's credits after leaving the Canadian army in 1945.

He testified that, while members of the movement recognized the letters as police propaganda, they contained enough truth to spark fear that the organization had been infiltrated by police. He said there was no truth in the letters and that their immediate effect was nil.

But the letters, he said, "tended to unhinge the movement" in the long run, causing it to fuse with a Marxist group to survive.

Stanley Chisholm, who was in charge of the counter-subversion branch of the RCMP security service in 1972 and who was Mr. Yaworski's superior, had difficulty remembering details of Operation Checkmate.

He recalled, however, that the decision was made to rid the league of Mr. Riddell because, in 1969, the world congress of Trotskyites had endorsed guerrilla warfare in South America and because Mr. Riddell was thought to favor its use in Canada.

Mr. Dowson's expensive court challenge is being paid by the Socialist Rights Defence Fund, whose members number in the hundreds. They include writers Pierre Berton, Margaret Atwood, Margaret Laurence, civil-rights lawyer Clayton Ruby and most of the labor movement in Canada.

THE GLOBE AND MAIL, WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 9, 1985

Trotskyite finally gets day in court

BY YVES LAVIGNE
The Globe and Mail

After spending eight years trying to sue two former members of the RCMP for slander, Trotskyite Ross Dowson finally got his case before a judge yesterday, only to have the defence accuse his lawyer of not being ready for trial.

The 68-year-old revolutionary's quest, which he has described in a book as "to establish the legitimacy and legality of socialist thought in face of charges of 'subversion' by the RCMP," has taken him to the highest courts in the land.

Having failed to get the case before the criminal courts, his lawyer, Harry Kopyto, launched a civil action in small claims court in Toronto.

Mr. Dowson says that a letter campaign by the RCMP's security service in 1972 led to dissent within his League for Socialist Action and hastened his departure from the organization, forcing him to find a job.

"I found it an intolerable working situation," he told the court. "I gave up my post and the (\$50-a-week) salary that went with it and I went out and worked for a living for the first time in years."

Mr. Dowson's admission that he quickly got a job caught his lawyer off guard. "You got a job right away?" Mr. Kopyto asked as he wheeled to face his client in the witness box.

Mr. Kopyto is trying to prove that

TROTSKYITE — Page A23

Mounties' 'dirty tricks' destroyed Trotskyite organization, court told

BY KIRK MAKIN

The Globe and Mail

The Royal Canadian Mounted Police was utterly successful in its use of "dirty tricks" to destroy a Trotskyite organization and it should pay the legal price, a small claims court judge was told yesterday.

The statement was made during final arguments in a claim by the founder of the League for Socialist Action against two former Mounties, Ronald Yaworski and Stanley Chisholm.

The plaintiff, Ross Dowson, says that a letter campaign by the RCMP's security service in 1972 aggravated dissent within the organization and led to his departure and the eventual dissolution of the movement.

Judge Marvin Zuker has reserved judgment in the case, which came before him after eight years of legal wrangling through all levels of court.

Lawyer Harry Kopyto is trying to show that his client was personally injured by the letter campaign, which sought to create doubt about

the mental stability of Mr. Dowson's successor, John Riddell.

Mr. Yaworski, one of the former Mounties, testified this week that the campaign came about because the force feared Mr. Riddell's belief that social change inevitably involves violence.

The Mounties said their operation was not a success, but Mr. Kopyto said they should not be so modest. "They did what they wanted to do. The real issue here is whether Canadian society can tolerate views which might not be theirs at the time."

To disrupt the organization was to disrupt the life and livelihood of Mr. Dowson, the lawyer argues. "The purpose was to disrupt the ability of the organization to function politically."

He said the letters had the chilling effect of making it clear to members that "whoever wrote those letters knew and had the ability to know the most detailed personal facts about members of the organization."

While members of the movement recognized the letters as the work of the police, they contained enough truth to spark fears that the league had been infiltrated by the police,

Damages sought in suit

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he said.

"The law has to be obeyed by everybody," Mr. Kopyto said, whether or not those who break it do so for a reason they believe to be genuine. "The RCMP and those two gentlemen broke the law in order to defend the law."

John Laskin, counsel for the defendants, said the claim for damages cannot succeed because there was a legitimate purpose to the RCMP operation. Mr. Riddell's beliefs in violence as a tool were ade-

quate cause for his clients to be concerned, he said.

Furthermore, the law requires that Mr. Dowson be personally injured by the action in dispute, he said. In this case, if anyone was injured it was Mr. Riddell and the league as a whole — not Mr. Dowson.

Paradoxically, the operation would never have taken place, had Mr. Dowson still been the executive-secretary, Mr. Laskin said, because the RCMP considered him harmless.